

POSTAL HISTORY OF ITALIAN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

1950-2020

This collection would describe mail use during different peace missions so called "peacekeeping" which took place from the end of the Second World War to today in the most disparate place around the world.

Since 1950, Italy has taken part, together with other countries, under the aegis of UN, NATO, EU and other international organization, also with independent initiatives, to 126 peace missions; in 2020 the current military operations are 35, totaling about 5.560 soldiers.

From a postal point of view, military correspondence is divided into service-mail and private mail, the service mail must be forwarded only using the Italian military postal service, instead the private mail can also be forwarded using the allied contingents post office or local civil post offices if there are good security conditions.

The postal rates used are those used within the country of belonging, in fact the military contingents have a benefit of extra-territoriality for the whole duration of the mission.

These post offices are provided with postmarks (guller type) at "variable date", and use ordinary postage stamps for ordinary postage, the most common ones. Initially they were assigned as equipment for the Post Unit by the Ministry of Post, today called Poste Italiane s.p.a., subsequently purchased by Military Commands and sold to the soldiers. For each mission, the Poste agency, together with the military authorities assigned to the mission, produced a special postmarks which contains data suitable to recognize the correspondence origin.

Noteworthy are also the oval-shaped postmarks used to forwarding the duty-free correspondence, a method exclusively used for the free sending of service correspondence that, from April 1st, 1997 the day on which the service was canceled, is no longer active. Therefore, even our Armed Force, like all State Bodies, must necessarily provide to buy and pay stamps for correspondence.

Beginning with the Italian fiduciary Somalia administration (1950 - 1956), the post office in Italy responsible to processing mail to and from missions abroad was the Roma n.13 office situated in Via Firenze. All correspondence sent to our soldiers must necessarily include in the address, after the indication of name and degree of the soldier who had to receive it, also the indication of the Roma n.13 Postal Office.

Since 2002, with the reorganization of the Army logistics component, the mail collection point in Italy to and from missions, has been identified in the Polo Grandi Utenti (CPO) of Poste Italiane situated in Ospedaletto town near to PISA. This decision is a result of its location, the same location of the 46th, Airbrigade, which normally provides air connections abroad.

The collection was subdivided by type, examining only the missions with the Departments, devoting each one a brief historical / postal note, describing its international and Italian name, its duration and the various postmarks used.

PLAN OF COLLECTION

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| • UN Mission | chapter 1 |
| • MULTINATIONAL Mission | chapter 2 |
| • HUMANITARIAN Mission | chapter 3 |
| • NATO Mission | chapter 4 |
| • EUFOR Mission | chapter 5 |



The missions conducted under the United Nations auspices, have become famous for the characteristic headgear and helmets color worn by their components: the blue helmets.

ITALIAN CONFIDENCE ADMINISTRATION OF SOMALIA
(Mogadishu - Somalia, from April 1st, 1950 to January 1st, 1956)

Force to foster international peace and security and to initiate Somalia into complete national independence.

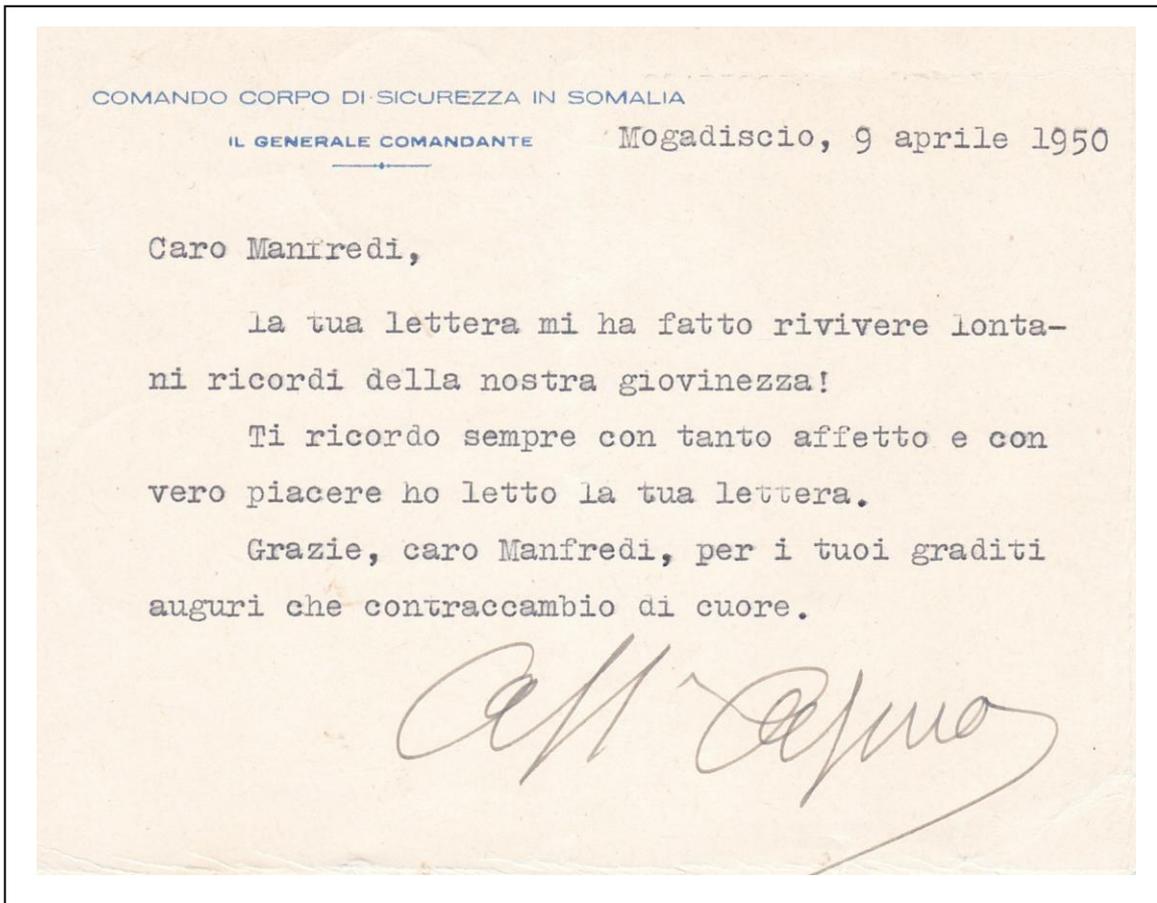
The military contingent, called the Security Corps in Somalia, used its civil connections to send its correspondence abroad; for the airmail there was a weekly scheduled flight of the Alitalia airlines (active since March 1950) and Aden Airways, while for the ordinary correspondence the ships that were docked in Mogadishu harbor were used. For the internal connections the plane was also used, especially the military one, every fortnight. For the the mail transport were also used the normal bus lines or administration of transport companies with special authorization vehicles. Somalia applied its inside rates to direct correspondence to Italy, with the exception of the surcharge for the airmail service.



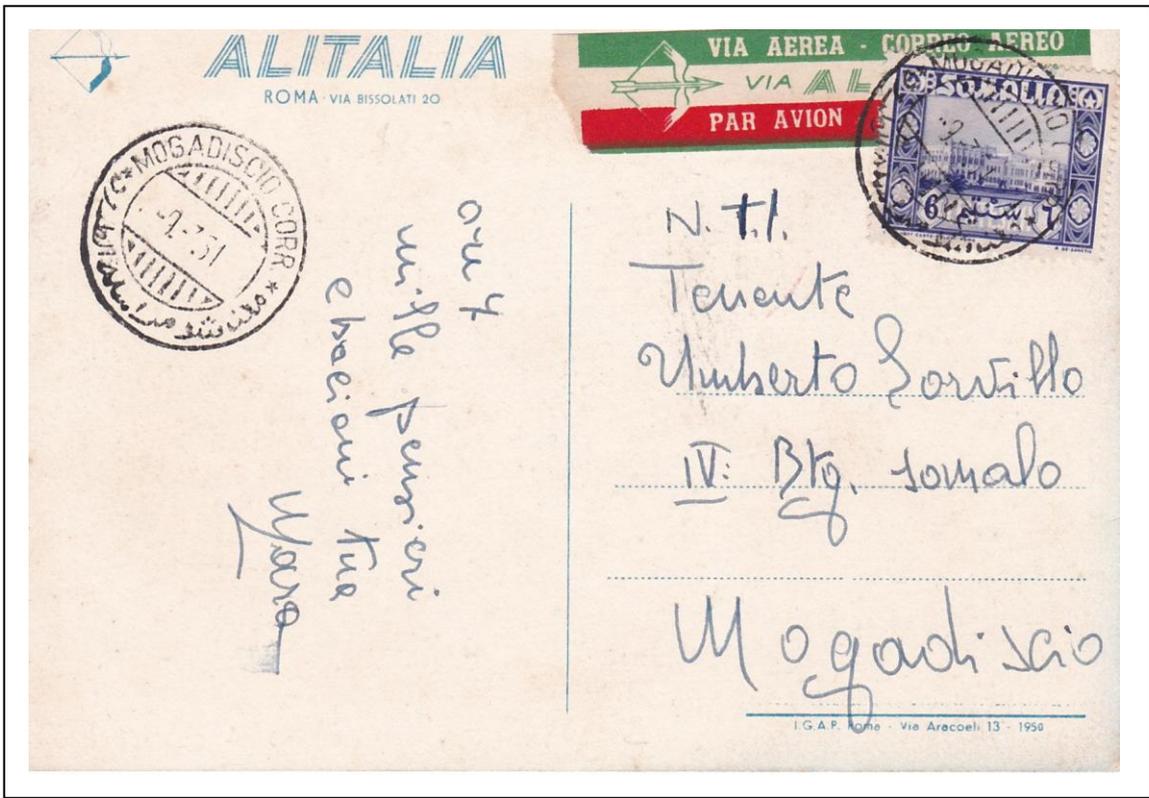
March 25th, 1950; Service letter, forwarded by Mogadishu via the English postal service to Rome. Arrival stamp of 30 March 1950 on the back. The administrative stamp of the 4th Infantry Armored Battalion is on the front.



April 15th, 1950; Letter on the letterhead of the Security Corps commander, stamped with three values of the first ordinary series expressed in Somali cents, for a total of 90 cents, exceeding 5 cents. (20 cents air fare + 65 cents of air surcharge). Italian and Arabic bilingual double circle cancellation and arrival thomble postmark of the following April, 20th.



April 9th, 1950; Cardboard from the previous letter, with the autograph signature of the Mission Commander, General Arturo FERRARA.



March 9th, 1951; Illustrated postcard of flag carrier ALITALIA, franked with a 6 cent. Somali stamp, sent from Mogadishu by city. Postcard already prepared with the "By Air / Par Avion" label but not used for this purpose.



July 14th, 1951; Private letter, sent by airmail, a military man from Mogadishu to Palermo.



ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES AU CONGO
(Leopoldville – Congo, from July 14th, 1960 to June, 1962)

Territorial integrity and independence of the Congo maintenance, preventing civil war and ensuring the withdrawal of all present foreign troops outside the UN Command.

Italy participated with a contingent of the 46th Aerobrigade, operating 9,165 flight hours, transporting 8,100 passengers and 9,328,201 pounds of material. In particular, thirteen Italian soldiers were brutally massacred in Kindu on November 11th, 1961, known as the "Kindu massacre".

A postal unit was established with at least one soldier carrying out this function, together with other administrative tasks; and for this the soldier / nucleus found its place within the cell of the Contingent Command.



December 14th, 1960; 1 ° port Letter for indoor, 30 cents. tariff, sent by San Gusmè (SI) to Kamina – Congo. In folder postmark “ONUC C 119 ITALIAN GROUP – LEOPOLDVILLE...” applied by the Air Force of Pisa.



June 16th, 1961; Letter sent by Leopoldville for the Pisa military airport, stamped with 10 Congolese francs. In folder postmark placed by the Liaison Office of the 46th Airbrigade "ONUC C. 119 ITALIAN GROUP - LEOPOLDVILLE 46^a AEROBRIGATA A.M. PISA-ITALIA".



September 21th, 1962; Private letter, forwarded by Leopoldville Congo and regularized in Pisa for Penna S. Andrea (TE). It bears folder stamp of the 46th Air Brigade.



ITALAIR OPERATION / UNIFIL 1

(Naqoura, Lebanon from July 10th, 1979 - ongoing)

Interposing international force after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978.

The post office used the figured stamp and manage ordinary stamps, blocks of recommendation and insurance (conventional only). The office was regularly monitored at home by Rome 13 until July 2002; from August by Polo Large Users of Pisa. The guller "Naqura Lebanon Military Mail Italair" has undergone, over the years, several lacerations of the characters that were composing it; this postmark in fact, had a profound rupture in 1994, so much that there is a missing letter, the "a" in the "Posta" word. With the beginning of year 2000, it had to be handwriting modified as the internal part of the postmark lost the two zeroes. After 18 May 2000, were used the French Military Post Office 125, other nations postmarks, Lebanon local post offices, and the diplomatic bag via UN New York courier. After the start of the Unifil 2 / leonte mission, the "OPERAZIONE LEONTE - LIBANO" postmark is used.

- "NAQOURA LIBANO – Posta Militare Italair " postmark, used from August 1st, 1979 to May 18th, 2000;

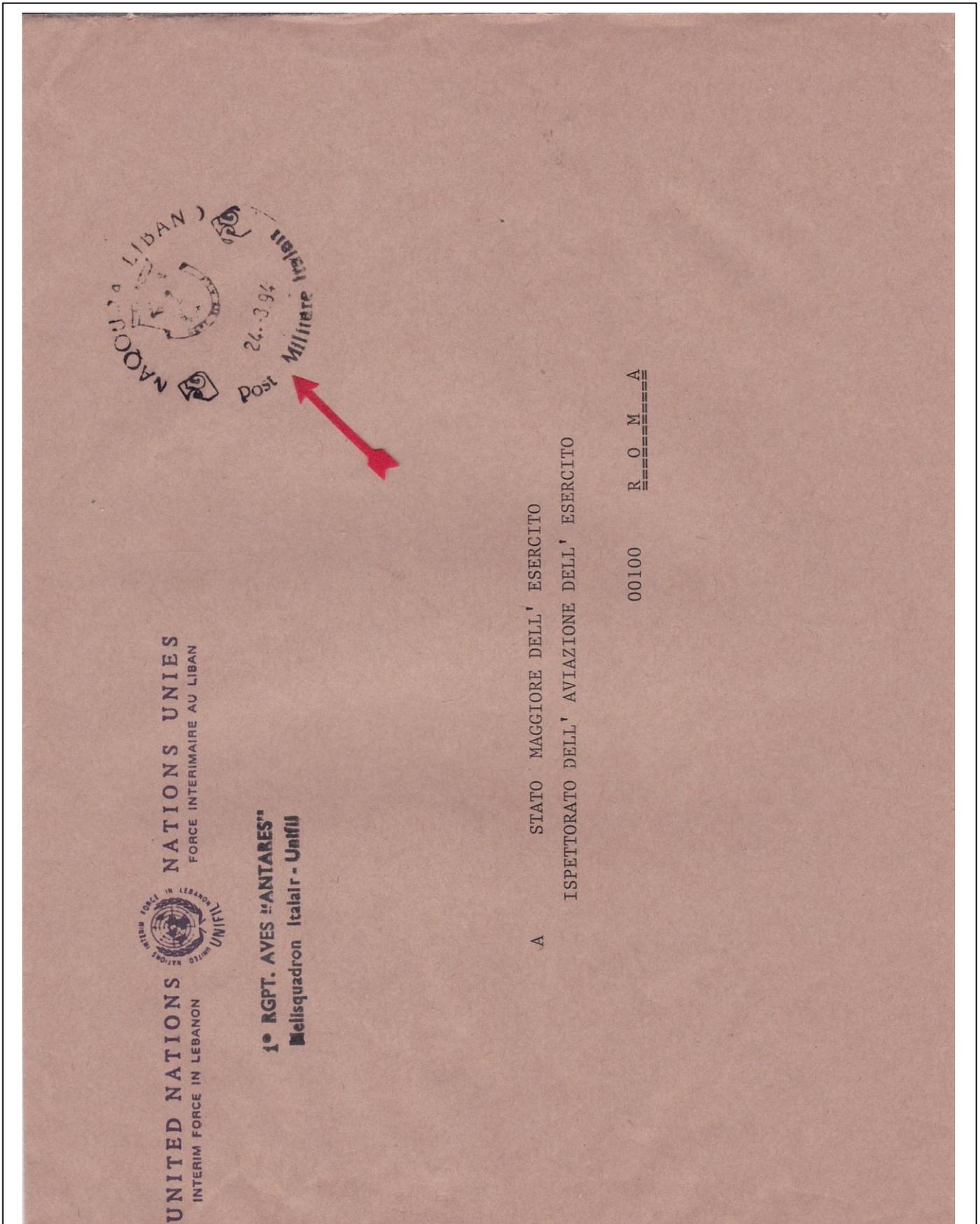
- "OPERAZIONE "LEONTE" LIBANO" postmark, used since November 20th, 2006.



December 6th, 1989; Registered letter of £ 3050 (£ 650 letter + £ 2400 right of recommendation), regularized with labeling in Roma 13. Administrative postmark of the 1st Grouping Light Aviation Army "Antares", on the reverse postmark of arrival at the end of December 18th, 1989.



July 11th, 1990; Insured private letter sent by Naqoura Lebanon to Pont Canavese (TO). Regularized in Rome 13 by affixing the green insured label.



March 24th, 1994; Service letter on headed paper, with "Naqoura Lebanon Military Mail Italaire" letter "a" missed in "Mail" word. Administrative postmark which demonstrates the recent change from ALE to AVES (Army Aviation).



August 31th, 1979; Lebanon-Italy air dispatch, forwarded from Naqoura-Beirut by AB / 204 helicopters and Beirut- Pratica di mare (Roma) by C.130 46th Air Brigade.



April 1th, 2016; Private letter sent by Naqoura to Turin through the postal service of the UN via New York. Integration of 10 cents with red label applied to "Glass Palace". Stamp and signature of the Commander of the Helicopter Group Giuseppe Della Bona on the front.



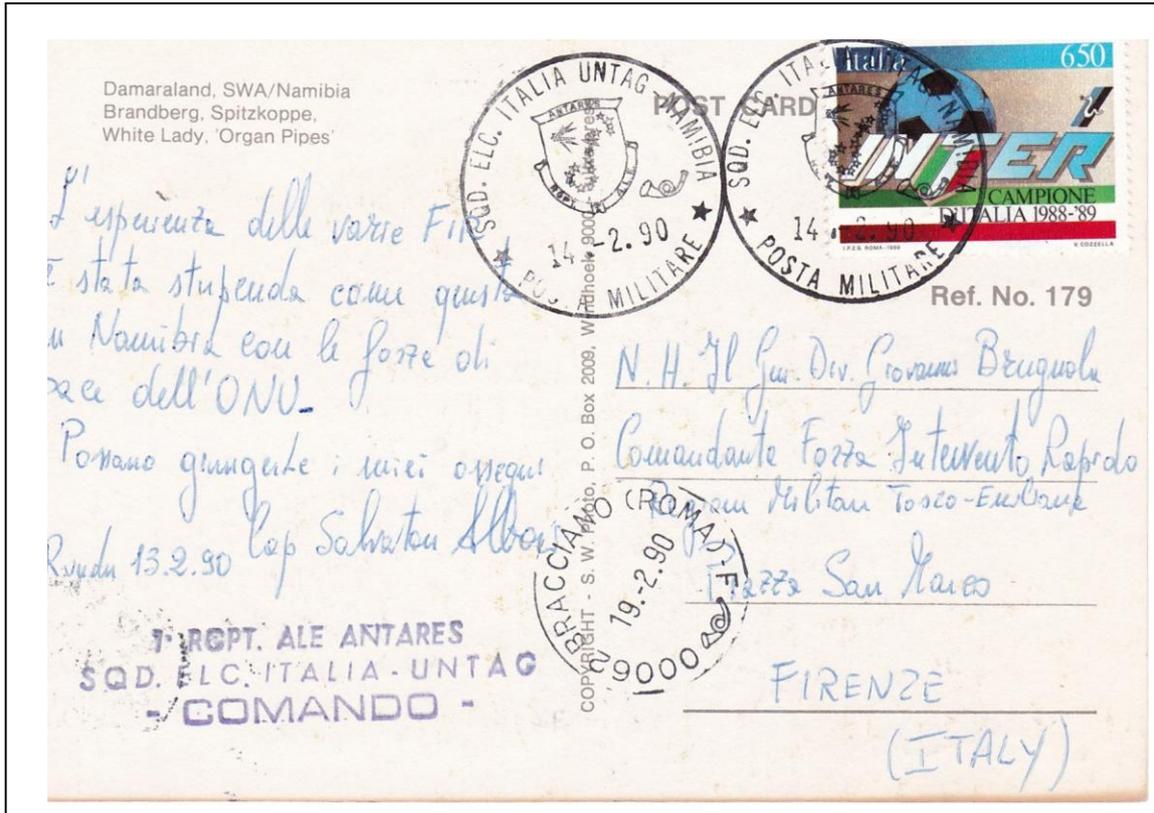
UNTAG OPERATION / HELITALY

(Rundu -Namibia, from March 20th, 1989 to April 7th,1990)

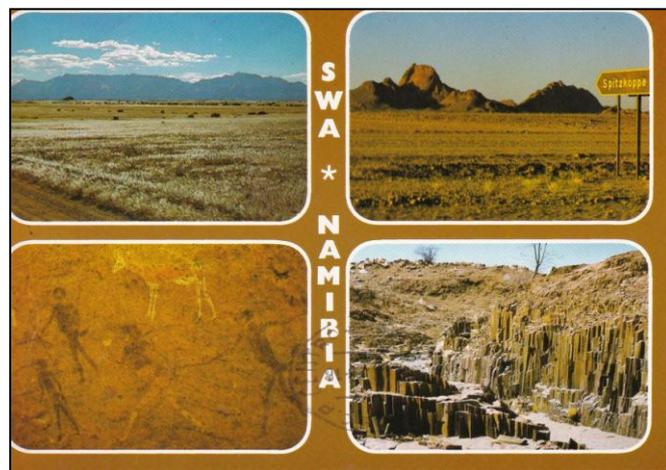
International security operation and observer mission after the withdrawal of Cuban forces and subsequent independence.

The post office was provided with a figurative stamp of the Italian participant: Helitaly helicopter squadron, with tasks of health evacuation, search and rescue. The mail of other nations and the diplomatic bag could also be used. Postmark "Sqd. Elc. Italy Untag - Namibia - Military Mail ", used from March 31, 1989 to April 1990 (June, 6th, 1990 posthumous).

"SQD. ELC. ITALIA UNTAG - NAMIBIA- POSTA MILITARE" postmark, used from March 31st, 1989 to April 1990.



February 14th, 1990; ; Illustrated postcard franked for £ 650 and sent to Florence, in excess of £ 50. Bracciano transit postmark (Rome), headquarter of the Vigna di Valle airport. On the reverse arrival postmark of february 21st, 1990.





UNOMOZ OPERATION/ ITALFOR ALBATROS 1-2

**(Chimoio-Mozambique, Albatros 1 from March 2nd, 1993 to May 31st, 1994;
Albatros 2 from June 1st, 1994 to December 4th, 1994)**

Ensure the peace process of the country after the ceasefire between the government and the opposition.

The system, always wanted by the postal and military authorities that required the concentration of correspondences from Italy to Albatros to Rome 13, was not always implemented because the military and civil aircraft that held the connections, mainly departed from Turin and not from Rome. The postmarks supplied to the Albatros post office were the guller date and the duty free oval of the Ministry of Defense, not always applied to office correspondence.

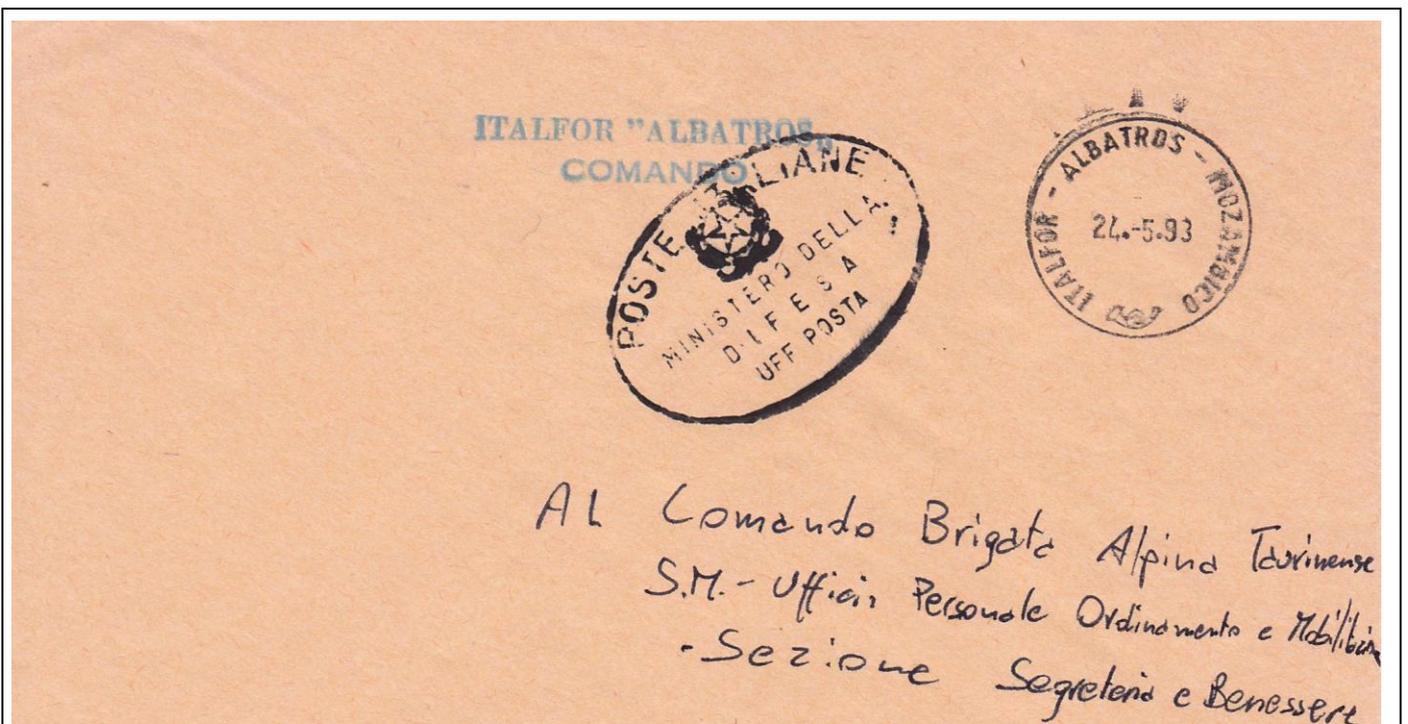
-*"ITALFOR ALBATROS MOZAMBICO" postmark, used from March 29th, 1993 to December 4th, 1994*



March 29th, 1993; Illustrated postcard created for the contingent by the "Taurinense" Alpine Brigade, forwarded by Chimoio - Mozambique to Turin. Guller on first day of use.



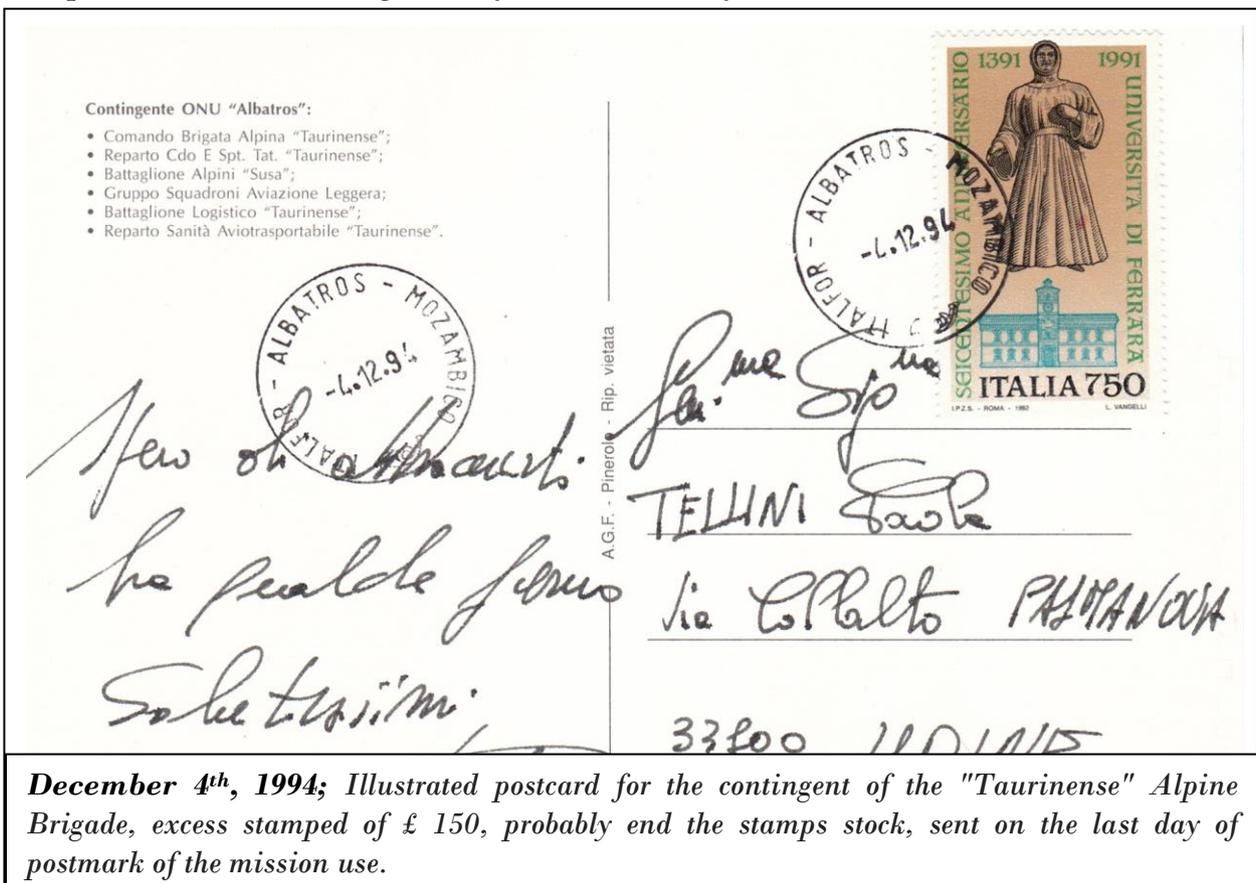
October 15th, 1993; Postcard illustrated local, forwarded with Mozambican Post from Chimoio to Milan. Administrative mark of the Albatros Contingent Field Hospital.



May 24th, 1993; Correspondence envelope exempt from Albatros to military institution in Turin. On the back the circular administrative postmark "Albatros Headquarters Italfor Albatros" but no arrival postmark.



July 12th, 1994; Service envelope with mission for Turin header, the linear stamp of Albatros Contingent Health Department. On the back signature of Commander Major Dante ZAMPA.



December 4th, 1994; Illustrated postcard for the contingent of the "Taurinense" Alpine Brigade, excess stamped of £ 150, probably end the stamps stock, sent on the last day of postmark of the mission use.

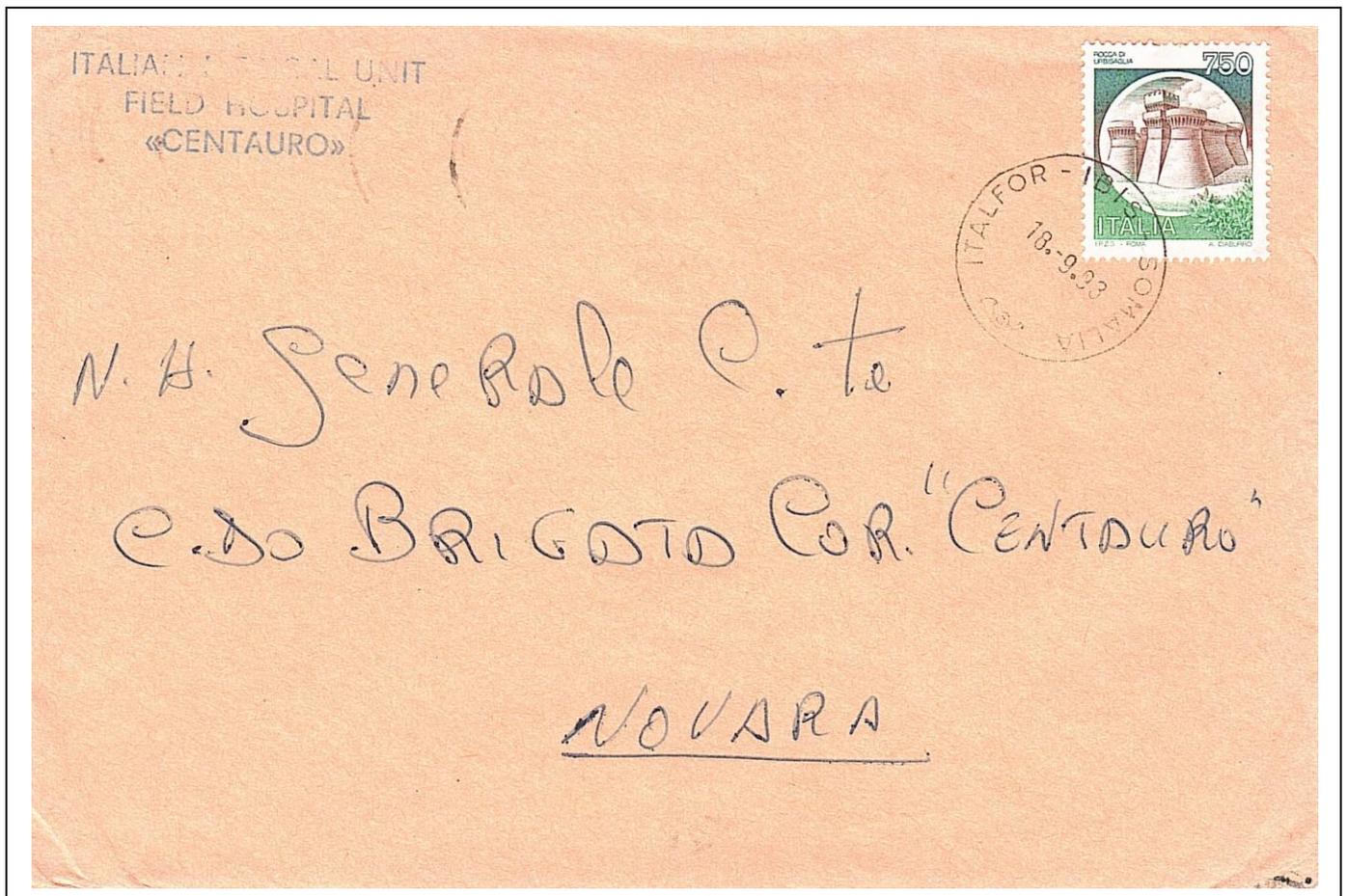


ITALFOR IBIS 2 OPERATION/ UNOSOM 2
(Mogadishu - Somalia, May 7th, 1993 - April 13th, 1994)

Restoring order and legality after the fall of the Siad Barre government

Postal history differed from Ibis 1 to August 1993 due to the worsening of the military situation in Mogadishu and uncertainty of keeping the contingent in Somalia, the stamps for free postage were missing. The correspondence arrived in Pisa and delivered at first to Folgore department, were settled providing for the postage at the expense of the Folgore itself. To compensate the mission costs, mainly the Kenyan postal service was used at the end of 1993, as the tariffs were very cheap, so the contingent post office was supplied with stamps from neighboring Kenya, bringing with helicopters service which often went to make purchases in Kenya, also that mail.

-*"ITALFOR- IBIS- SOMALIA" postmark, used from May 7th, 1993 to March 28th, 1994*



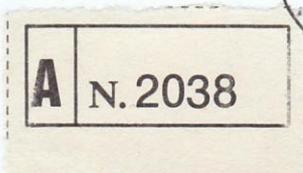
September 18th, 1993; Service letter, forwarded by Johar - Somalia to Novara, franked with 750 Castles, still in free distribution. It bears the linear stamp of the "Centauro" Field Hospital.



UNOSOM
UNITED NATIONS OPERATION
IN SOMALIA

COMANDO ITALFOR IBIS 2

PROT. N° 2541/LOG/IBIS



3° RGT. Bersaglieri

UFF. Logistico

Viale Suzzani n° 125

20100 MILANO

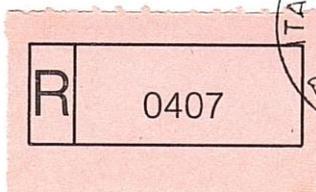
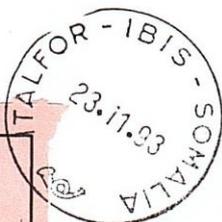
November 23rd, 1993; Service letters in insurance and registered with related labels supplied to Ibis, for official correspondence use only. Administrative postmark "COMANDO ITALFOR IBIS 2".



UNOSOM
UNITED NATIONS OPERATION
IN SOMALIA

COMANDO ITALFOR IBIS 2

PROT. N° 2540/OAI/IBIS



3° RGT. BERSAGLIERI

UFFICIO OAI

Viale Suzzani n° 125

20100 MILANO



January 26th, 1994; Illustrated postcard homage of the Councilor Tourism Commune of Bergamo. Distributed by postage with 650 £ Castles series and 2 Kenyan stamps in the last months of the mission.



March 3rd, 1994; Illustrated postcard franked with a Kenyan stamp and forwarded to Gigiri (Kenya). Administrative postmark and signature of the Commander of the Mission, General Carmine FIORE.



"NILO" OPERATION / UNMIS

(Khartoum - Sudan, from June 15th, 2005 to December 21st, 2005)

Supervision of the peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the "Sudan People's Liberation Movement Army"

The post office used the planes of the 46th Airbrigade for connections with the motherland, using "women in art" series stamps and priority mail series.

- "OPERAZIONE "NILO" SUDAN" postmark, used from June 18th, 2005 to December 21st, 2005



June 18th, 2005; first group of weight letter € 0.45, sent the first day of use of postmark. "COMANDO TASK FORCE LEONE" linear and circular administrative postmarks.



LEONTE OPERATION / UNIFIL 2

(South - Lebanon, from September 2nd, 2006 - ongoing)

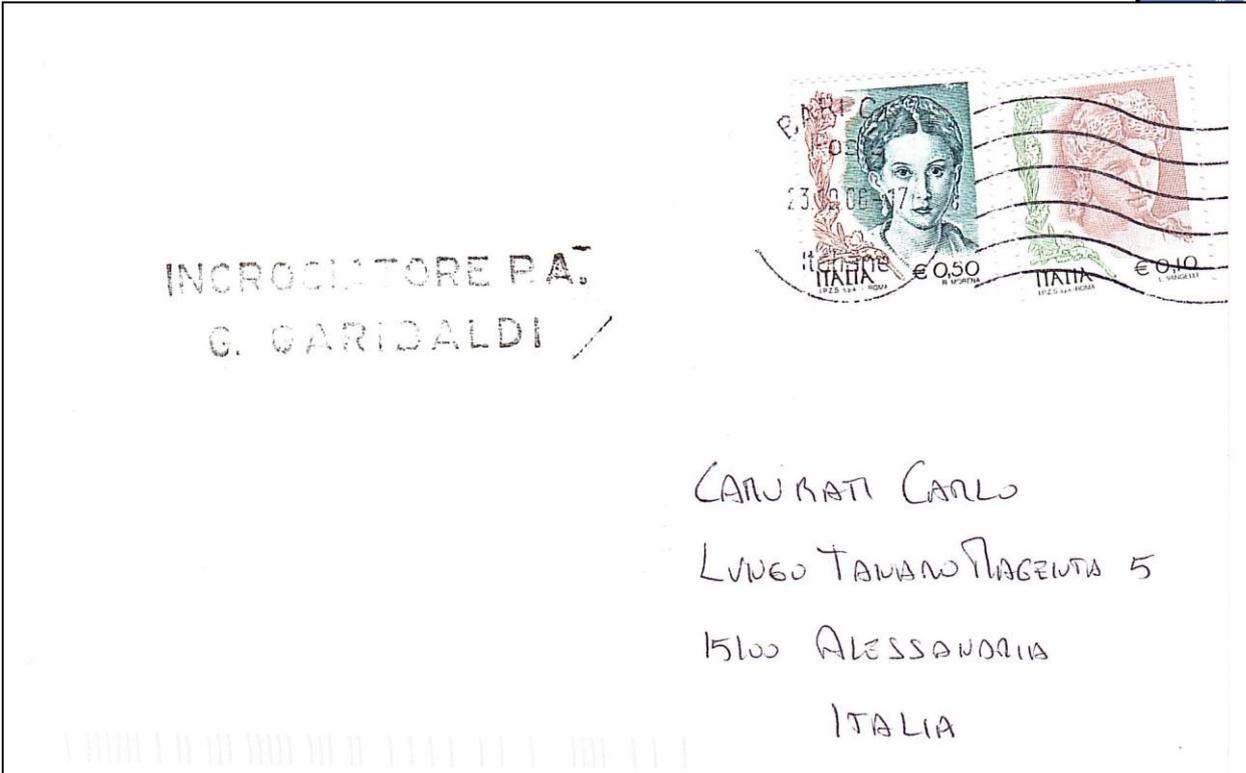
Hostilities cessation between Hezbollah and the State of Israel, from the Litani river, the historical Leonte to the north, up to the Blue Line to the south.

The post office is located at the "Millevoi" base located in the north of Shama and the mail is weekly brought to the airport of Beirut using tactical vehicles, where dispatched are exchanged with the crew of the military aircraft 46th Airbrigade from Pisa. From September 2nd, 2006, the landing day of the Italians troops at the Tiro beach and the Naqoura port, until October 22, 2006, the return day of the last San Marco military ship, the soldiers could use the various ships postal service , which have exchanged dispatches with the Bari Centro CMP.

- "OPERAZIONE "LEONTE" LIBANO" postmark, in use since November 20th, 2006



October 23rd, 2006; First port Priority letter, single service from 1st, June 2006, sent by the San Marco ship on the return day to the Bari harbour. Arrival postmark of Ameno city October 25th, 2006 on the reverse.



October 3th, 2006; Letter 1st port, sent by the G. Garibaldi Carrier Ship, off Naqoura, for Alessandria. Regularized to the CMP of Bari, where the Cruiser docked.



July 31th, 2007; Private letter forwarded from the Shama - Lebanon base to Turin. On it the round stamp of "Folgore" Brigade commemorating the years 1982 and 2007 spent on Lebanese soil.



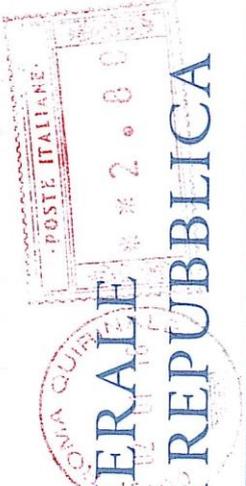
December 13th, 2015; Christmas letter and greeting card sent with the new priority service "Posta 1" (delivery within 1 day) with marks and signature of the Commander UNIFIL - Sector West Br. Gen. Franco FEDERICI.





SECRETARIATO GENERALE
DELLA PRESIDENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

Ufficio per gli Affari Militari e
Segreteria del Consiglio Supremo di Difesa

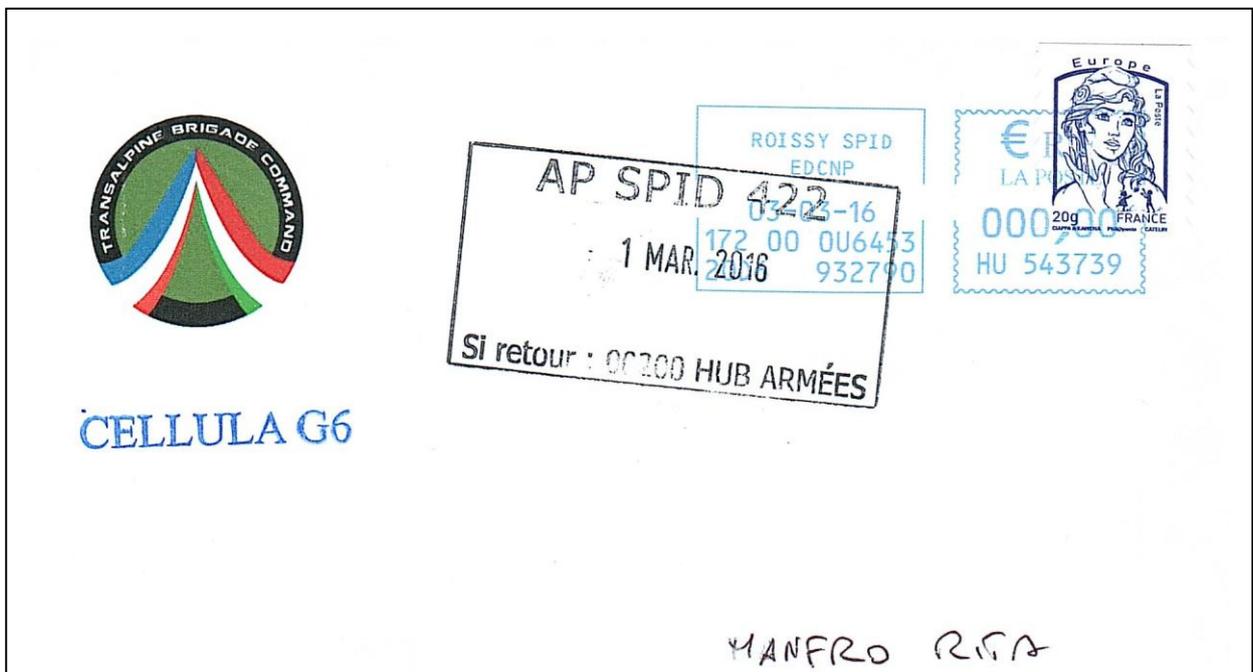


OPERAZIONE "LEONTE" LIBANO
C.M.P. - P.G.C. Via Emilia, 270
56100 OSPEDALETTO (PI)

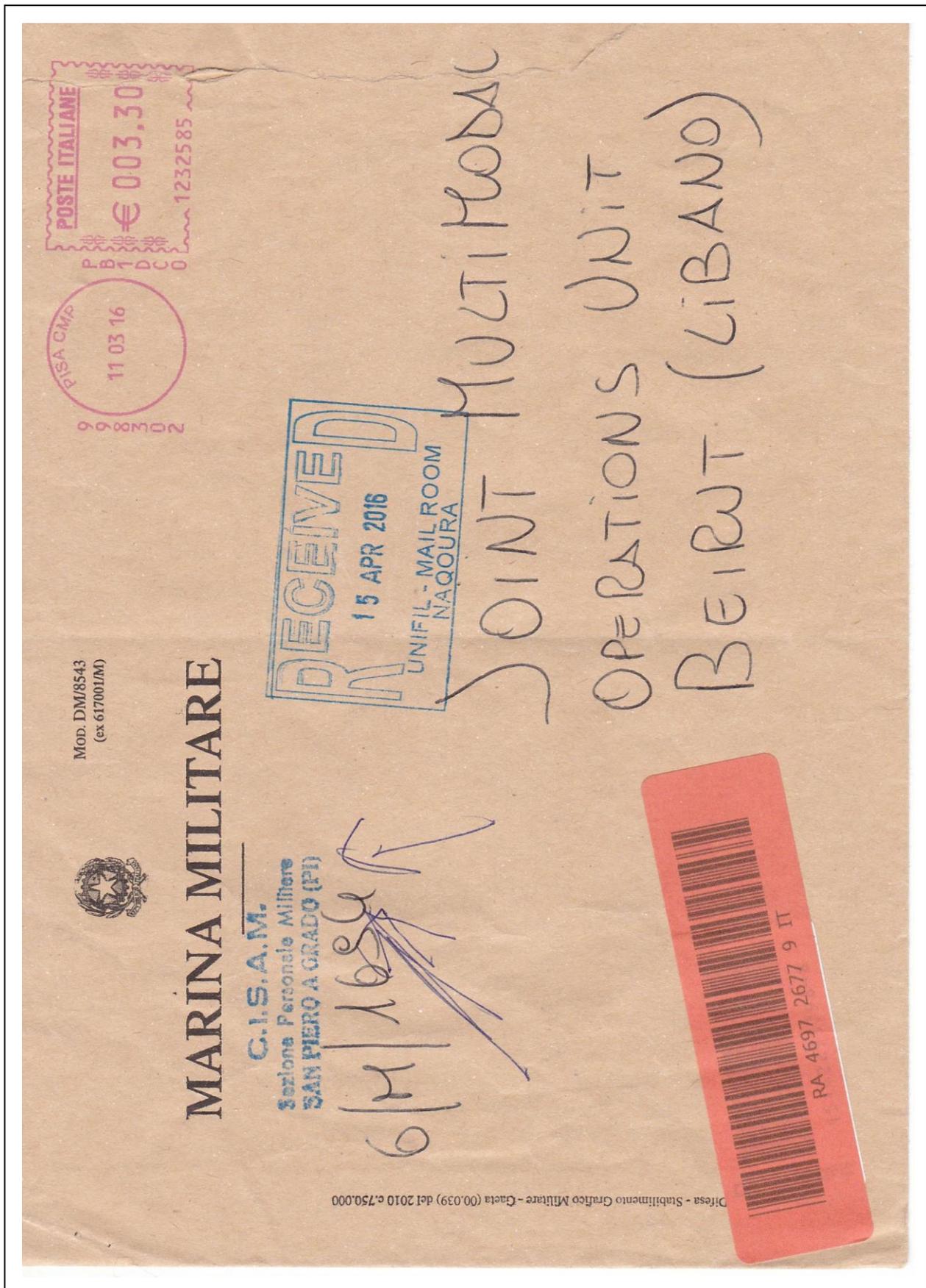
January 2nd, 2016; Service letter, on headed paper of General Secretariat Presidency of Republic, sent from Rome Quirinale to Lebanon. Regularized with mechanical postage in the amount of € 2.80 - Posta 1.



December 15th, 2015; Service letter sent by Padova to Lebanon. Use the "nexive" private mails, which guarantee satellite tracking and delivery within six days from acceptance.



March 1st, 2016; Envelope with Italian-French Brigade header private letter. Shipped from Naqoura via international postal service for French defense (SPID) to Turin and regularized in Roissy- Paris through "HUB ARMEES" using a mechanical stamping machine on 03.03.16. On it postmarked stamp of Post Office and the linear stamp of Cell G6 (communications).



March 11th, 2016; Registered service letter from Italian Navy, directed to the Joint Multimodal Operations Unit of Beirut. Sent with Liban Post, mark of the Unifil - Naqoura post office.



On several occasions the Italian Army has been engaged in overseas missions organized by nations pools able to respond to crisis situations more quickly.

LEBANON I OPERATION / ITALCON I
(Beirut - Lebanon, August 20th, - September 13th, 1982)

Under request of the Lebanese government with the task of ensuring the safety of Palestinians departing from Beirut.

There is a low postal record for this mission, as very few letters are written by soldiers during navigation, on land or in Beirut. Posted on ships and sent by mail when the mission returns to Italy. As for postal links between Italy and Lebanon, they were temporarily suspended from July 6th, to September 23rd, 1982 due to the Lebanon-Israeli war.



July 8th, 1982; *Abroad Letter with airmail rights for the southern basin, corresponding to: £ 450 (1st port) + £ 60 for each 5 gr. of weight, for a total of 15 gr. Postmarked "TORINO FERR. POSTA AEREA" on July 9th, 1982 on the label "AL MITTENTE SERVIZIO SOSPESO TEMPORANEAMENTE ".*

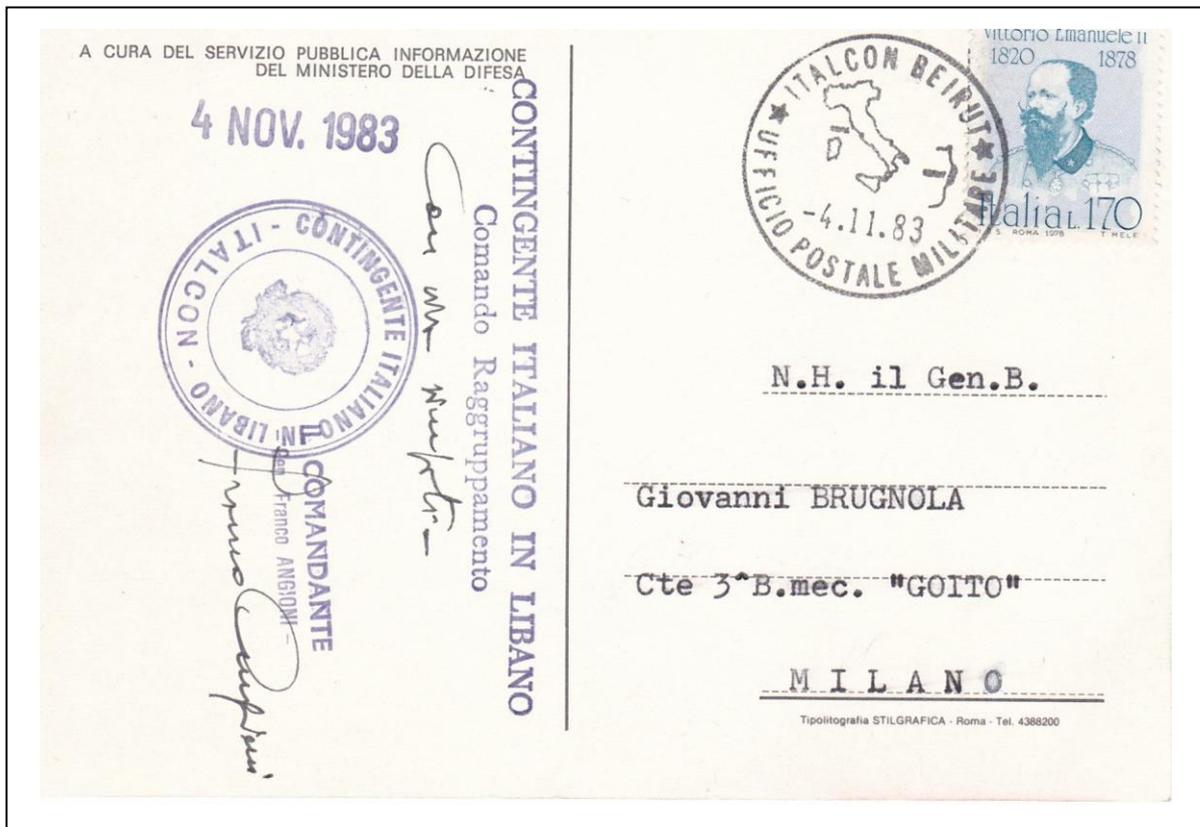


LEBANON 2 OPERATION / ITALCON 2

(Beirut - Lebanon, September 20th, 1982 - April 1st, 1984)

The post office worked to perform the operations of sending and receiving postal communications (except for telegrams), normal and recommended type. The post Officer role was entrusted to a Military Police non-commissioned officer directly reporting to the Assistant Major. The connection with Italy was assured by the Air Navigation Company MEA (Middle East Airlines) every day except Tuesday and Sunday, with departure at 12.30 and arrival the following day at 16.05 in Rome. A post office ROMA 13 representative provided for the collection / delivery of the postal bag and the subsequent forwarding to the addresses. At the disposal of the Post Office there was a "stamps fund" available for a value of 1,500,000 lire to meet the needs of the contingent. Establish a force of interposition in locations agreed to ensure that multinational presence that assists the Lebanese government in the area of Beirut.

- "ITALCON BEIRUT UFFICIO POSTALE MILITARE" postmark, used from October 24th, 1982 to February 19th, 1984.



November 4th, 1983; Illustrated Postcard at reduced rate directed to a soldier stationed in Milan, franked for £ 170, (in excess of £ 20). Figured the mission mail postmark, administrative stamps and signature of the Italian contingent Commander, General Franco ANGIONI.



October 18th, 1983; Reduced rate Postal ticket direct to soldiers, franked for £ 150, sent to soldier stationed in Bari. administrative postmark of the Italian contingent in Lebanon, Regroup Command on the reverse.



December 5th, 1983; Registered express letter for an amount of £ 2400 (£ 400 letter + £ 1000 recommended + £ 1000 expressed) sent from Naples to a soldier in Lebanon. Transit mark of december 6th, 1983 in Roma 13.



January 24th, 1984; Letter addressed to the "Legnano" Genio Company in Cremona, oval exemption postmark and "CONTINGENTE ITALIANO IN LIBANO Comando Raggruppamento" linear postmark.



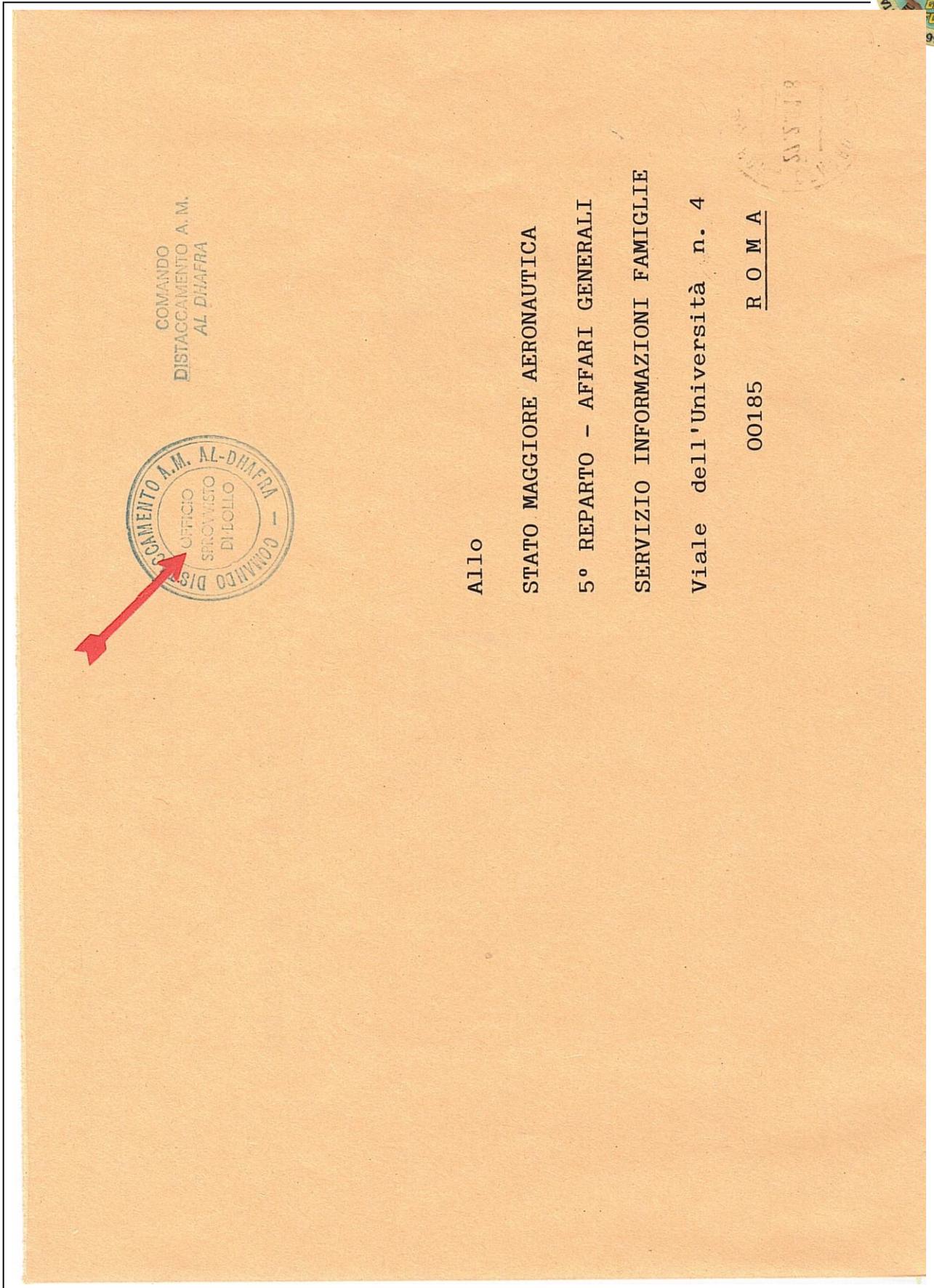
"LOCUSTA" OPERATION / WAR OF THE GULF
(Persian Gulf, August 2nd, 1990 - July 30th, 1991)

Restore the right of Kuwait people to freedom and independence, violated by Iraq.

The 16 Italian military ships began to patrol the waters of the Gulf from September 15th, 1990 to August 24th, 1991 with the task of surveillance, defense and demining of the waters after the "ceasefire". The aerial component composed by 10 Tornados called Autonomous Flight Department stationed in the United Arab Emirates at Al Dhafra air base. Because of the war, from November 1990 there was the suspension of acceptance of Italian correspondence to some Middle Eastern countries. The culmination of the postal crisis occurred after January 17th, 1991 with the closure of all civil flights. The gradual recovery of postal traffic in the Gulf area occurred from March 1st, 1991, when our military company resumed flights with many Middle Eastern countries. The Italian air base did not have a post office, so the mail was forwarded to Rome, Palazzo dell'Aeronautica, through the C-130s of the 46th Aerobrigade that landed at the airports of Ghedi (BS) or Pisa.



December 2nd, 1990; Letter directed to Florence forwarded by the United Arab Emirates by an officer of the Air Force detachment to the Italian Embassy in Abu Dhabi mail; linear and round administrative postmark.



COMANDO
DISTACAMENTO A.M.
AL DHAFRA



Allo

STATO MAGGIORE AERONAUTICA

5° REPARTO - AFFARI GENERALI

SERVIZIO INFORMAZIONI FAMIGLIE

Viale dell'Università n. 4

00185 R O M A

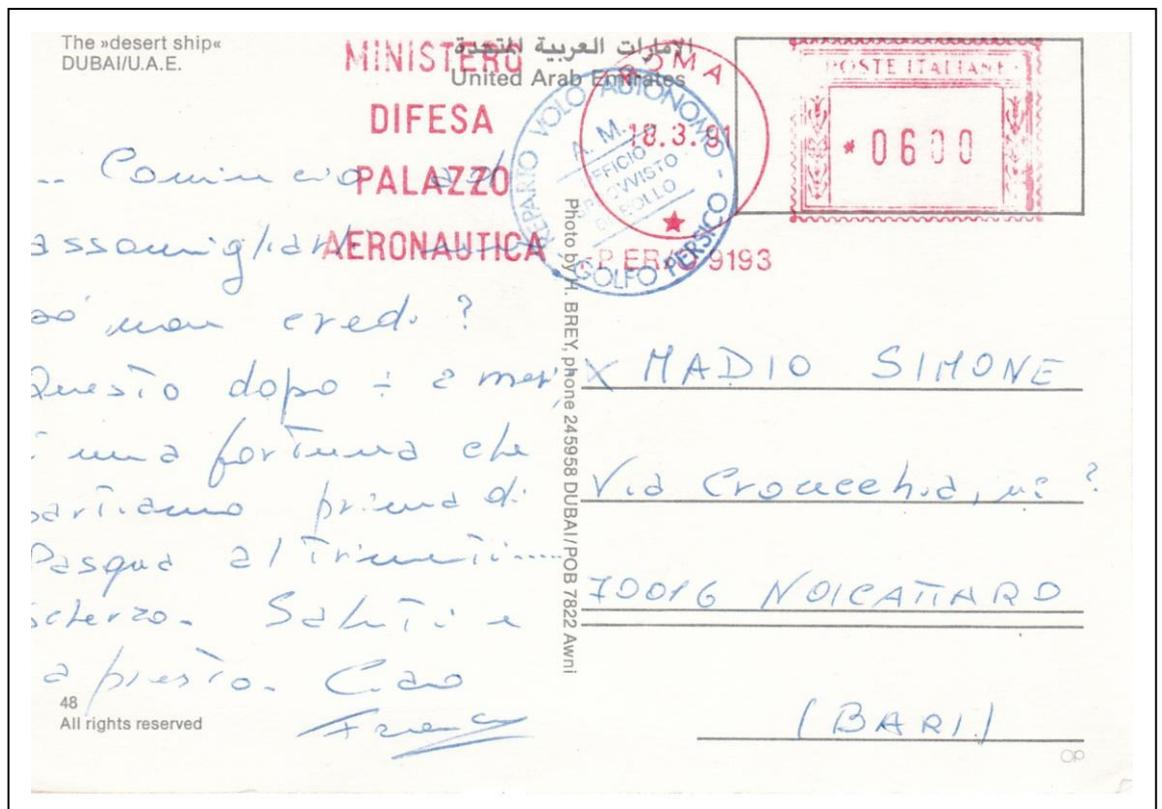


February 1991; Service envelope forwarded by Al-Dhafra Air Force Detachment Command to Air Force General Staff - Rome. Arrival stamp Roma Centro correspondences dated 27.02.91 (war end day) on the back . It has a linear and round mission stamp; note the u "office" obtained from one or for a stamping error.



February 25th, 1991; illustrated Postcard in fare, postmarked in San Lorenzo, Rome. It presents an advertising plaque in honor of the Allied military in the Gulf, used for only 15 days (from 11th, to 26th, february 1991) in 16 stamping centers.

March 18th, 1991; Postcard sent without postage by an Italian soldier stationed in Al Dhafra for Italy. It was entrusted to the military dispatch for the Ministry of Defense Aeronautics, which regularized it with a red mechanical franking machine. Administrative round postmark applied at the Embassy of Italy in Abu Dhabi.





RESTORE HOPE OPERATION / ITALFOR IBIS I
(Mogadishu - Somalia, December 13th, 1992 - May 6th, 1993)

Restoring order and legality after the fall of the Siad Barre government

The postal history of the IBIS contingent, with an almost constant presence of over 2400 soldiers, is the largest and most complex of all military peace missions and therefore the mail that has traveled to and from Somalia is the largest. The correspondences were concentrated at the Roma 13 post office, but due to the amount of work also caused by the Pellicano mission, starting from January 1993, the mail arrived by air at several Italian military or civil airports, was forwarded from those places, without going through Rome.

- "ITALFOR – IBIS- SOMALIA" postmark, used from January 11th to September 4th, 1993.



March 18th, 1993; Letter from Somalia forwarded without stamps, regularized in Livorno from which was sent for the final destination. name, surname and sender's department, Urbisaglia (MC) arrival stamp of March 22nd, 1993 on the back.

FRATELLI SOMALI,

LE UNITA' ITALIANE HANNO RESO POSSIBILE UN COLLEGAMENTO POSTALE DI EMERGENZA TRA MOGADISCIO E L'ITALIA.

PER SPEDIRE UNA LETTERA AI VOSTRI CARI DOVETE RECAPITARE LE VOSTRE LETTERE (PACCHI ESCLUSI) ALL'UFFICIO POSTALE DI COMPETENZA NEL SETTORE NORD

(VIA)
O NEL SETTORE SUD

(VIA)
L'EVENTUALE RISPOSTA PERVERRA' NELL'UFFICIO
POSTALE DI COMPETENZA.

MERANDO DI AIUTARVI A SENTIRVI VICINI AI VOSTRI FAMILIARI ED AMICI IN ITALIA.



LE FORZE ARMATE ITALIANE



B. & C. Livorno - Italy

WALAALAYAAL SOMAALIYEED

DAWLADDA TALYAANIGU WAXAY SUURTO-GELISAY IN LA HELO XIRIIR
ISGAARSIINEED OO DEG-DEG AH, OO U DHAXEYO
MUQDISHO ILAA IYO ITAALIYA.

SI AAD SAAXIBBAYAASHINA IYO EHELLADIINA UGU DIRTAAN WARQADO
ISAGANA WAR-QABTAAN.

HADDABA, WAA INAAD WARQADAAHAAS KU SOO HAGAAJIDAAN (AYAGA OO
AY KU JIRAAN BAQSHADO) XAFIISKA ISGAARSIINTA DHANKA WAQOYGA

(WADDO)
AMA DHANA KOOFUR

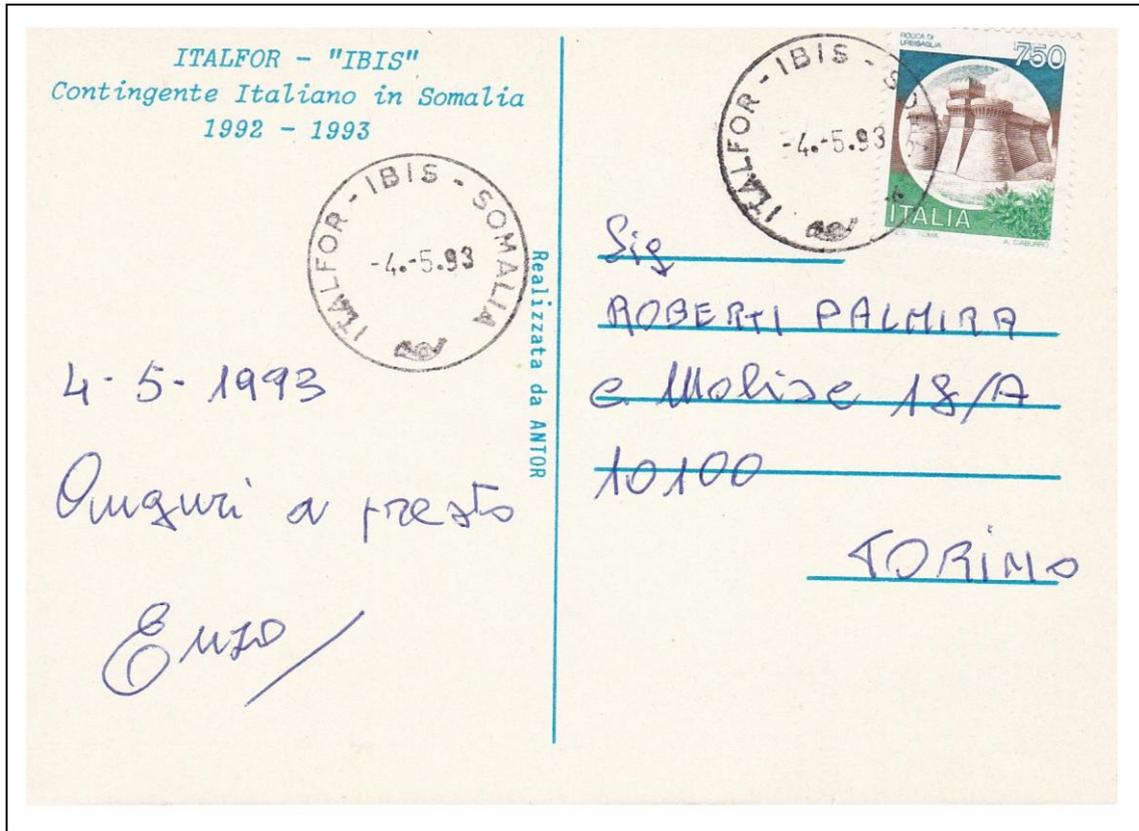
(WADDO)

JAWAABTA WARQADAAHAASU, WAXAY KU SOO NOQON DOONAAN ISLA
XAFIISKA KOB KULYUSAN OO AY MARKA HORE KA BAXEEN.

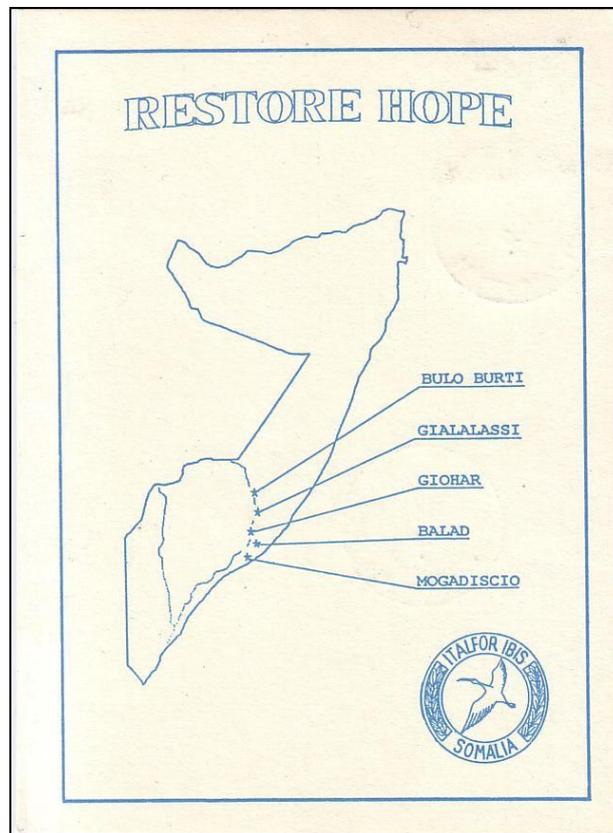
AYNO INAAD SI BUUXDA ISAGA WAR HAYDAAN
(SASKIINNA AMABA EHELLADIINA.

XOOGGAGGA CIIDANKA TALYAANIGA

Advertising flyer to stimulate postal items, bilingual printed by B. & C. Livorno company. They were distributed to the Somali population by hand in the streets of Mogadishu and in the localities controlled by the Italian military.



May 4th, 1993; Illustrated postcard in memory Operation Restore Hope "Made by Antonio Torre", a military of the contingent, and printed in Mogadishu by the Folgore paratrooper Brigade.



On the reverse the postcard reproduction, portraying the borders of Somalia with our bases locations.



UNITED SHIELD OPERATION / ITALFOR IBIS 3
(Coast of Somalia, January 11th, 1995 – March 22nd, 1995)

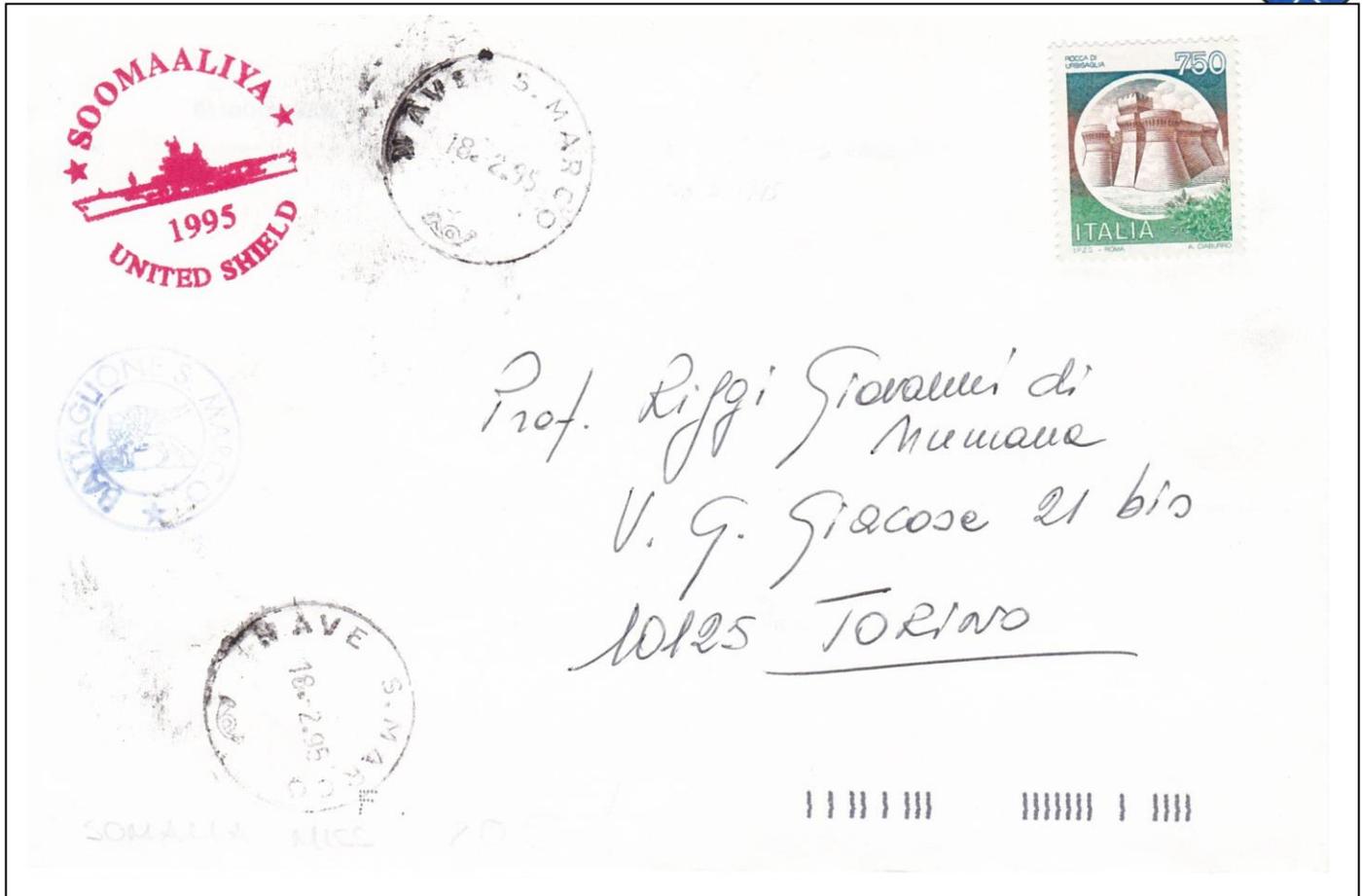
Withdrawal of ONU troops from Somalia

The postal history of this short mission has a great relevance but of modest consistency because our soldiers were seated on the ships of the 26th Naval Group and touched the ground for a few hours. Consequently the post offices which had the task of assistance for soldiers in the 61 days of the mission were those of the 5 ships belonging to Navy Force (Garibaldi, S. Marco, S. Giorgio, Stromboli and Libeccio). Those post offices were operating from January 21st, to March 28th, 1995.

-Postmarks of the five ships



February 12th, 1995; Postcard sent by San Giorgio ship Commander Ludovico FE' D'OSTIANI Vassel Captain. Immunity postmark applied for courtesy.



February 18th, 1995; First port letter from the San Marco multifunctional vessel with postal and administrative postmarks, the red postmark of the United Shield operation in particular.



March 1st, 1995; First port letter of Giuseppe Garibaldi aircraft carrier cruiser, arrival postmark of Urbisaglia on March 24th, 1995 on the reverse .



March 23rd, 1995; Letter sent from Stromboli ship supply vessel at the end of mission, in Italian waters, Taranto post offices postmark. Torino postmark on the reverse march 29th, 1995.



March 27th, 1995; Letter from the Libeccio frigate ship also at the end of the mission, with the frigate administrative postmark and oval exemption postmark.



ALBA OPERATION / ALBA 1
(Albania, April 15th, 1997 - August 12th, 1997)

Allow the distribution of humanitarian aid but in fact prevent civil war and allow the start of a solution to the Albanian political crisis.

Ordinary stamps like castles series were used in this mission, but there are also commemorative postage stamps. The mail has not been abundant and practically all kinds of precious correspondence are missing; office correspondence is equally rare and has not been postmarked as it should have been with the new legislation on franchise, abolished from April 1st, 1997 (law of December 23rd, 1996, No. 662, article 2, paragraph 17). Private mail also traveled with the Albanian mail, and the service was also carried by military couriers. There were two weekly flights from Tirana to Italy, while the military post office was located at the Qemal Stafa summer camp in Durres. From January 16th, 1992 also the Navy which operated through the XXII ° Naval Group, had its own mail service. The collector post office between Italy and Albania was Bari Centro, being closer to the port of Durres.

"OPERAZIONE ALBA" postmark, used from May 7th, to August 10th, 1997



July 3rd, 1997; 1 ° port letter with Italian Field Hospital administrative postmark. Arrival postmark of July 29th, 1997 on the reverse.



July 16th, 1997; First port letter in rate, CELLULA G1 administrative postmark, personnel management.



August 10th, 1997; Letter sent by the Command of the Multinational Force of Italian Guided Protection, on the guller last day of use. Commander of the Mission General Luciano FORLANI Signature.



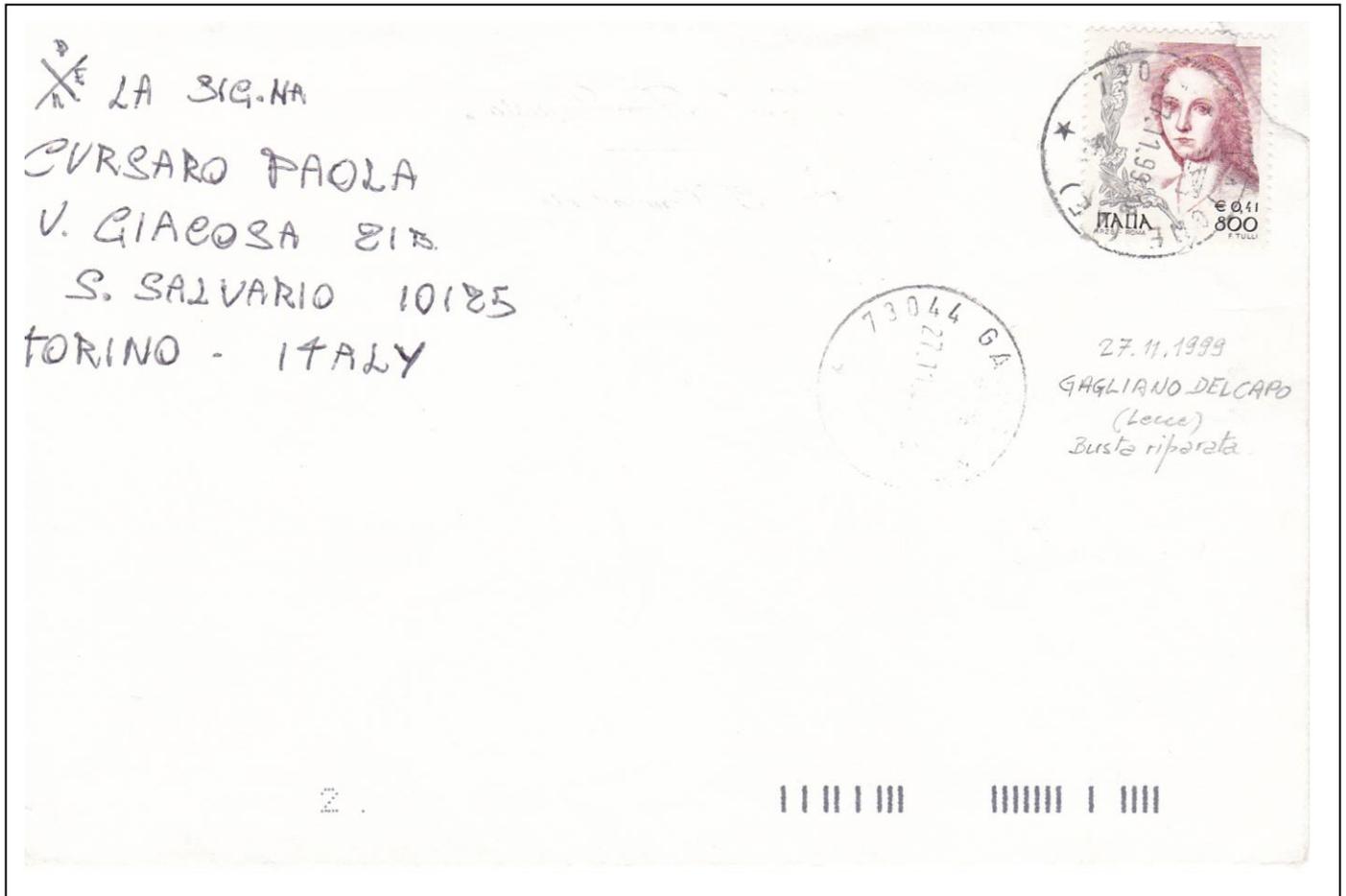
INTERFET OPERATION / STABILISE

(East Timor - September 22nd, 1999 - February 17th, 2000)

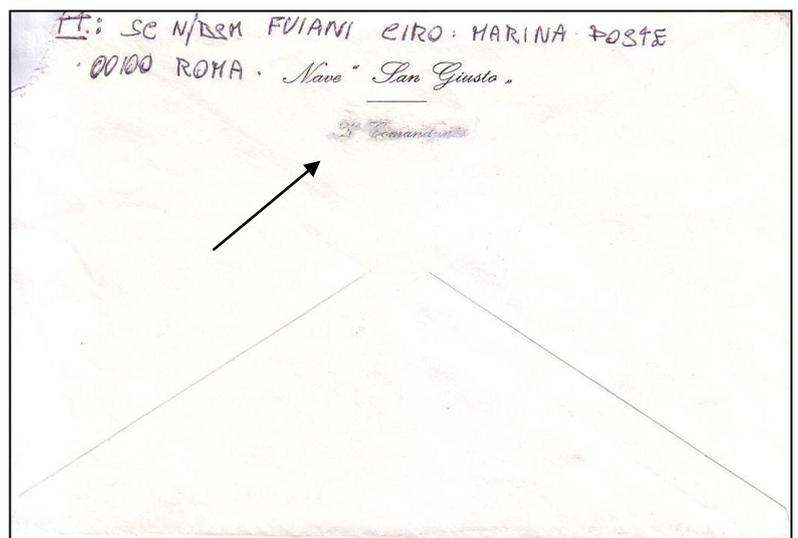
Humanitarian assistance to the populations, protection and support to the force of interposition between the anti-independence militia and the Independent National Front against the Philippines.

The mission did not have its own post office, but on the San Giusto support ship there was a post office (only equipped for acceptance but not for forwarding), which accepted the mail and then forward it via the 46th aerobattalion, shuttling between Pisa and Timor. The Australian Post Office has dedicated a postmark to the Italian contingent called "kangaroo", due to the presence of this animal on the stamp.

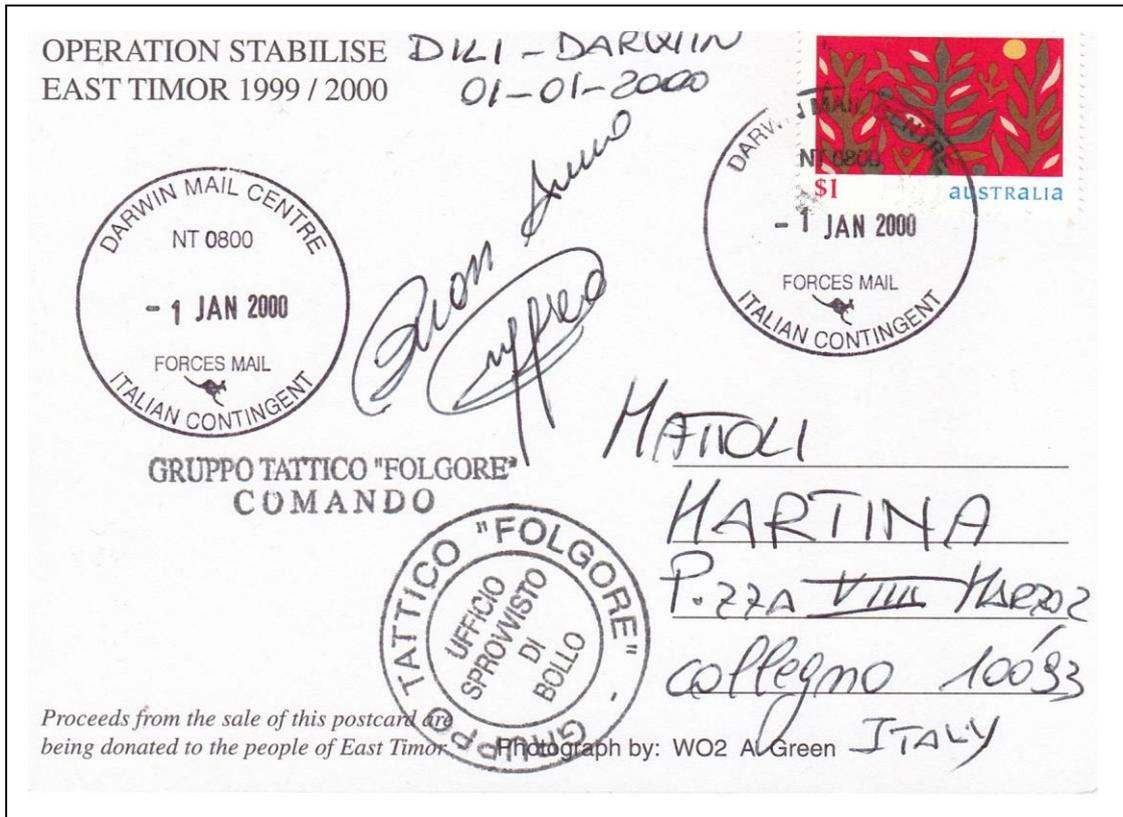
- "DARWIN MAIL CENTRE" postmark, used from November 5th, 1999 to February 15th, 2000



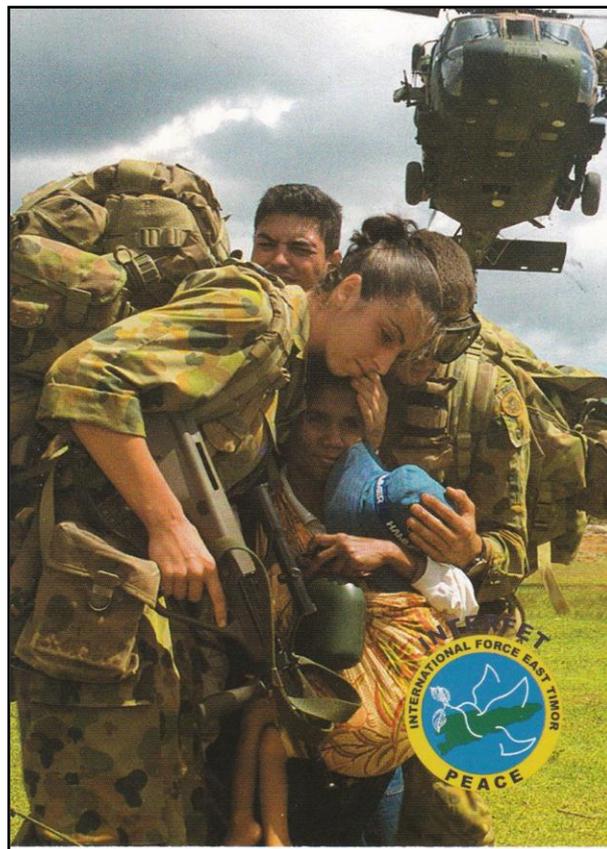
November 27th, 1999; Letter repaired in the upper right corner, written by the Commander of the San Giusto Ship on headed paper, forwarded to destination via the post office of Gagliano del Capo (LE), probably sent by a soldier in license.



Back of the envelope, note the erasing of the inscription "Il Comandante", re-used for lack of stationery.



January 1st, 2000; Mission official postcard, sent through the Australian Post, using the postal postmark dedicated to the Italian contingent, called "kangaroo".





**ENDURING FREEDOM OPERATION / "NIBBIO" Task Force
(Khowst - Afghanistan, March 15th, 2003 - September 15th, 2003)**

Competing with the other Coalition forces, to achieve the strategic objectives set for the third and fourth phases of Enduring Freedom operation.

The responsibility of area assigned to the Task Force NIBBIO coincides with a particularly sensitive region of Afghanistan, located on the border strip with Pakistan characterized by an extreme "porosity" that facilitates the transit of all forms of smuggling, from drugs to weapons, infiltration of armed groups and offering refuge to numerous terrorist bases. The Task Force NIBBIO can rightly be considered one of the most complex and risky missions carried out by the Italian Armed Forces since the Second World War. The Italian contingent used the post office located in Kabul, for the ISAF operation.

- "ISAF- AFGHANISTAN" postmark, used from March 15th, 2003 to September 15th, 2003



May 16th, 2003; first port letter with "ISAF- AFGHANISTAN" and administrative postmark of the Parachute Battalion Monte Cervino, framed in the 9th Alpine Regiment on the reverse. Arrival postmark of Ameno's post office on June 5th, 2003.





July 25th, 2003; Letter sent in the second period of the mission, S1 cell relating to personnel administrative postmark.



August 18th, 2003; This letter sent by the 5th, ROA of the Air Force stationed in Manas (Kyrgyzstan) has carried out the essential aerotactic transport activity in support of the Nibbio Task Force.



IRAQI FREEDOM OPERATION / ANTICA BABILONIA

(Iraq, June 11th, 2003 - December 1st, 2006)

Contribute to the stability and security of Iraq and assist the Iraqi people in their efforts to reform the country.

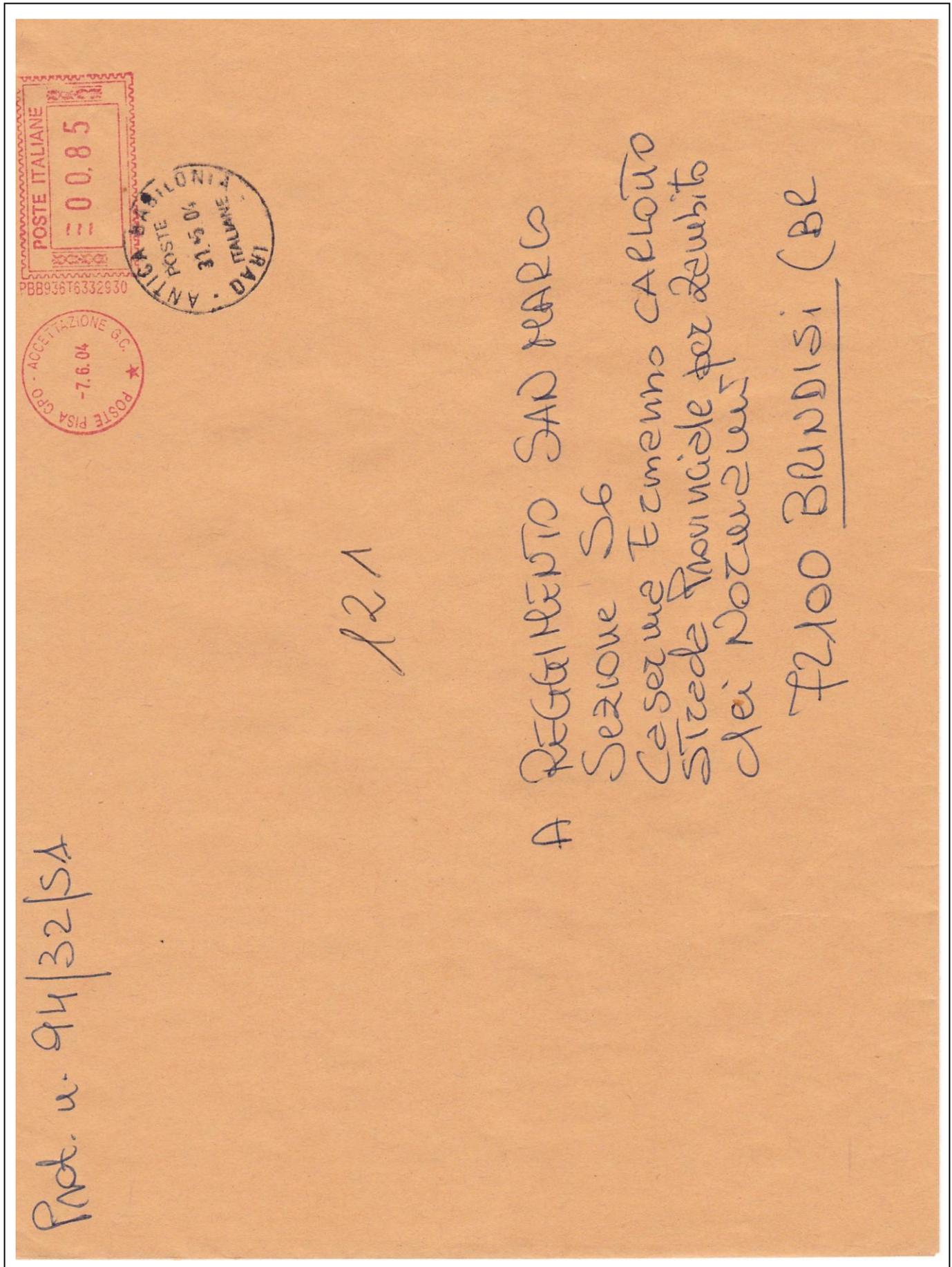
From the beginning of the mission, the mail was forwarded through our embassy in Baghdad, attached to the diplomatic bag for Italy or entrusted to the return staff who forwarded it on the first stop in Italy, where it was stamped and placed in the public channel and then postmarked in transit. Since August 5th, 2003 soldiers have been able to take advantage of the Italian Military Post Office in the airport city of Tallil. In addition to the Italian mail channel, soldiers were able to take advantage of English and American mail.

- "ANTICA BABILONIA - IRAQ" postmark, used from August 5th, 2003 to November 30th, 2006



December 14th, 2003; Illustrated American postcard with the mission logo, franked with € 0.41, first port fare.



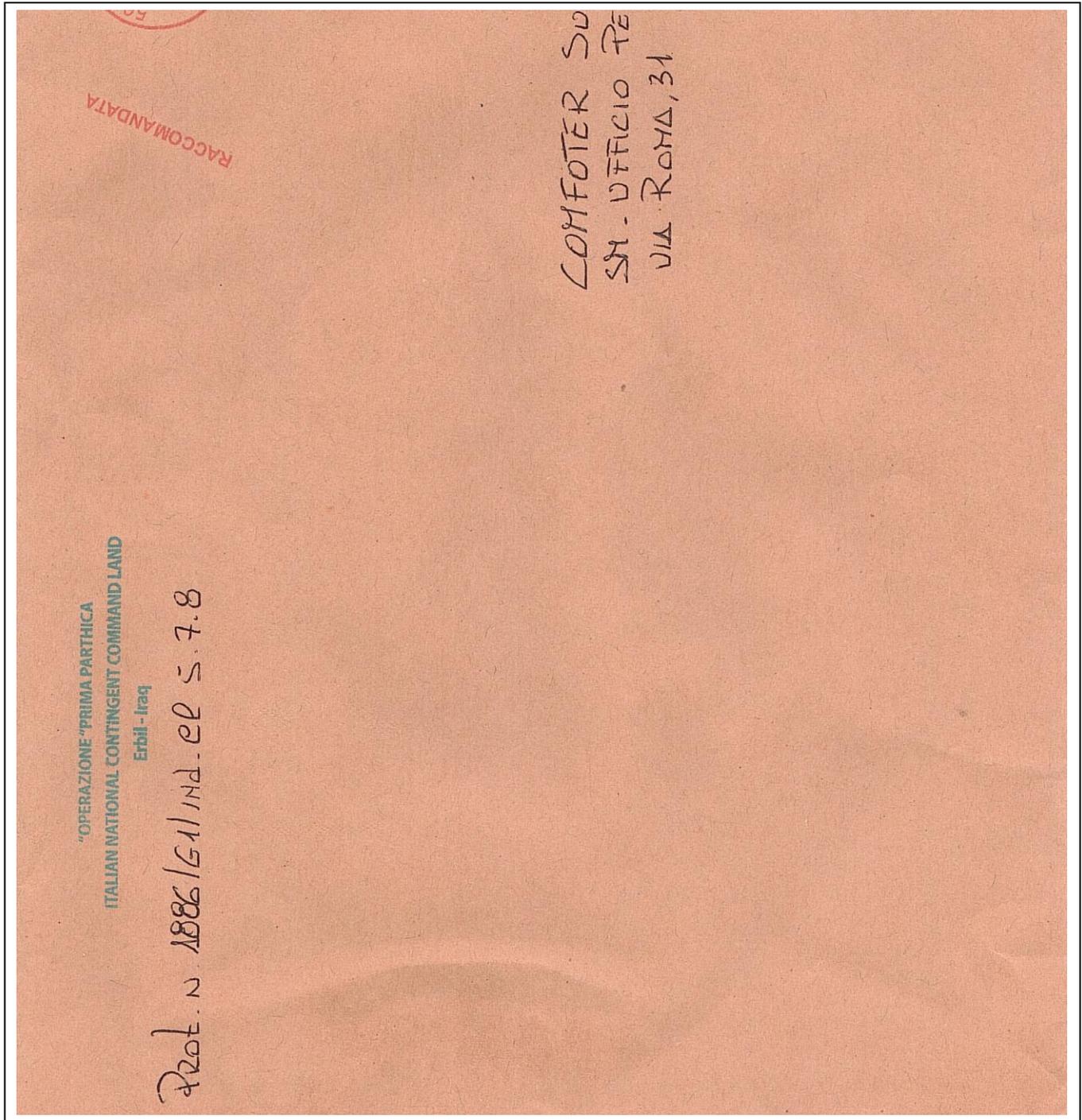


May 31st, 2004; Service envelope Regularized at Pisa CPO post office for € 0.85 (ordinary rate according to port up to 50 gr).



PRIMA PARTHICA OPERATION
(Kuwait, Iraq - Erbil, Baghdad October 14th, 2014 - ongoing)

National contribution to the International Coalition to combat DAESH. Currently the maximum annual number authorized by Italy is 1100 soldiers, 305 land vehicles and 12 air vehicles. The training of the Kurdish and Iraqi Security Forces takes place mainly in the offices of Erbil and Baghdad, nine nations contribute to it, with their own trainers (Italy, Germany, Holland, Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, Hungary, Slovenia and Turkey). Italy currently employs around 350 soldiers, including 120 instructors. The mail is regularized to the CPO of Pisa.



April 27th 2018; Registered service letter sent by Erbil to Verona, first port rate "PRO" mail. On it the linear stamp "Operation Parthica Italian National Contingent Command Land Erbil - Iraq".

Chapter 3.1

HUMANITARIAN MISSION

These operations were carried out to help populations affected by natural disasters, social, political and religious discrimination, which compromise the recognition of fundamental human rights.



PROVIDE COMFORT OPERATION / ITALFOR AIRONE 1-2
(Incirlik - Turkey, Airone 1 from April 20th to July 17th 1991
Airone 2 from July 18th to October 15th 1991)

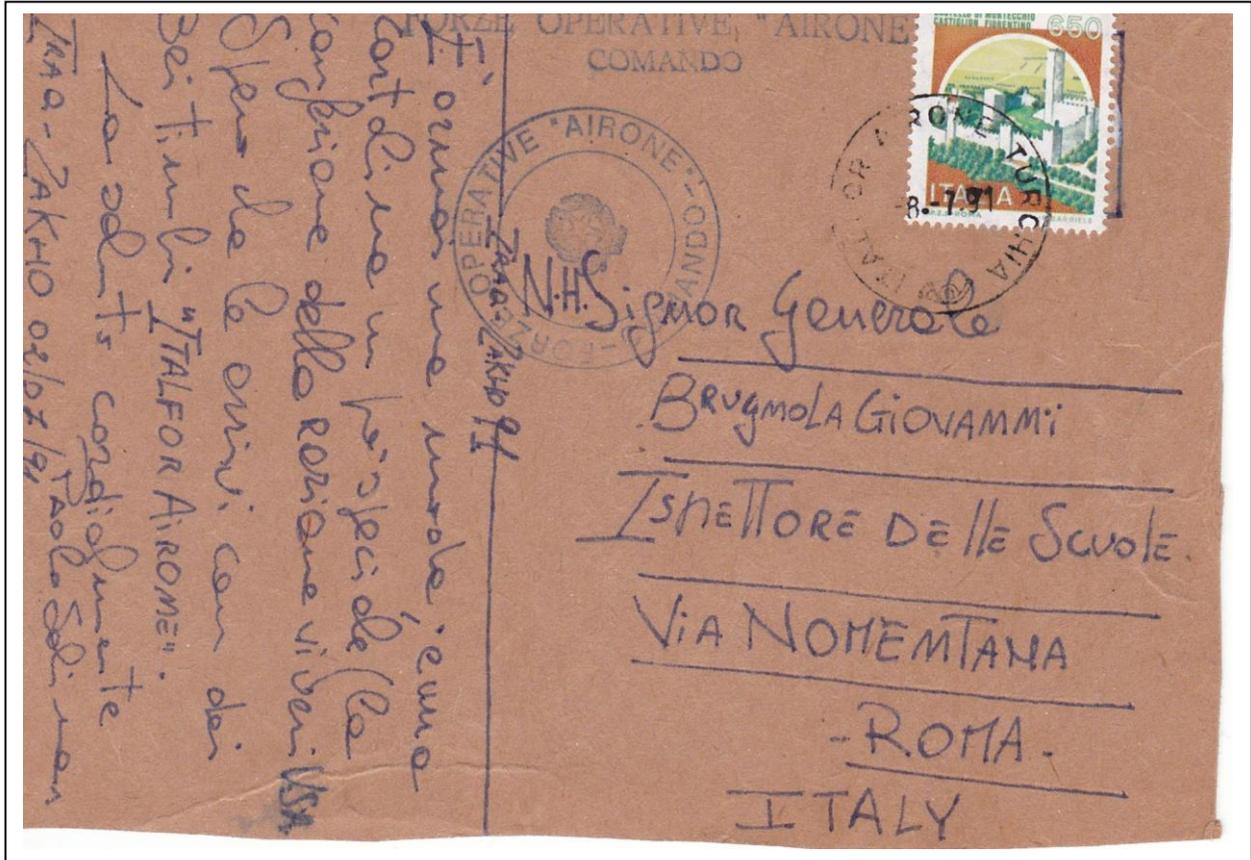
Aid to the Kurdish people who tried to escape Saddam Hussein's dictatorship after the Gulf War.

The post office worked from 17 May until the bulk was withdrawn, on 10 July 1991, but envelopes still postmarked by this office found later show that some correspondences left the country until the end of July and others, postmarked on the back shows the date until October 7th.

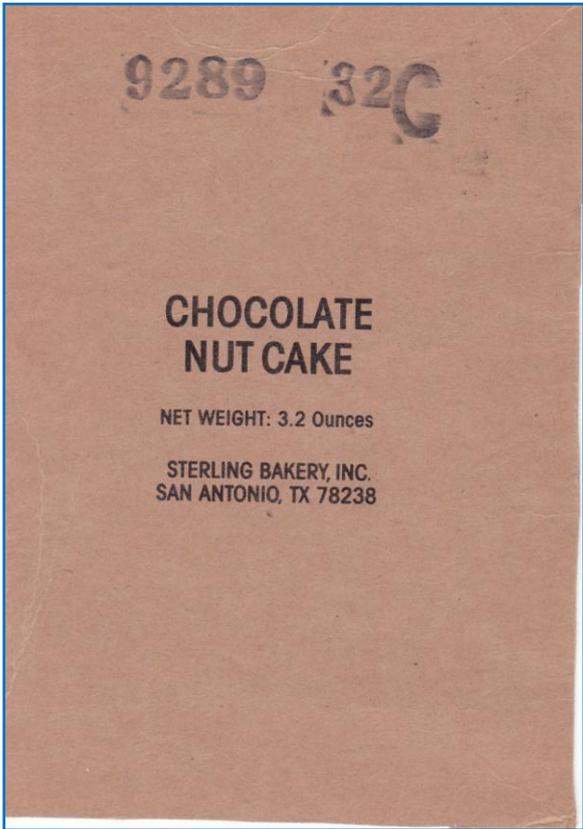
- "ITALFOR AIRONE TURCHIA" postmark, used from May 17th, 1991 to October 7th, 1991



June 17th, 1991; Postmarked official postcard for £ 750, in excess of £ 150, sent from Incirlik to Rome. Administrative postmark and signature of the Mission Commander, General Mario BUSCEMI.



July 8th, 1991; Crafted Postcard, obtained from the American food ration pack. Franked for £ 650 in fare, shipped from Zakho, Iraq to Rome. Administrative linear and round postmarks "FORZE OPERATIVE AIRONE COMANDO".



Chapter 3.3

HUMANITARIAN MISSION



PELLICANO 1-2 OPERATION

(Albania, Pellicano 1 from September 16th, 1991 to April 7th, 1992;
Pellicano 2 from April 8th, 1992 to December 13th, 1993)

Agreement with the Albanian government, to provide welcome and assistance for refugees in Italy and to the population of Albania.

As for Lebanon, the post office on Via Firenze in Rome was the hub of correspondence exchange between Italy and Albania. To eliminate the postal issue linked to the maritime component, the Command of the 22nd Naval Group established in the first days of September 1991 with its own post office, was located to Durazzo. Pellicano's post office in Durres, initially defined by the Provincial PPTT Directorate of Rome as a dispatch exchange office, since November, 1991 with the arrival of the exemption postmark and the linear of the mission, became a full force.

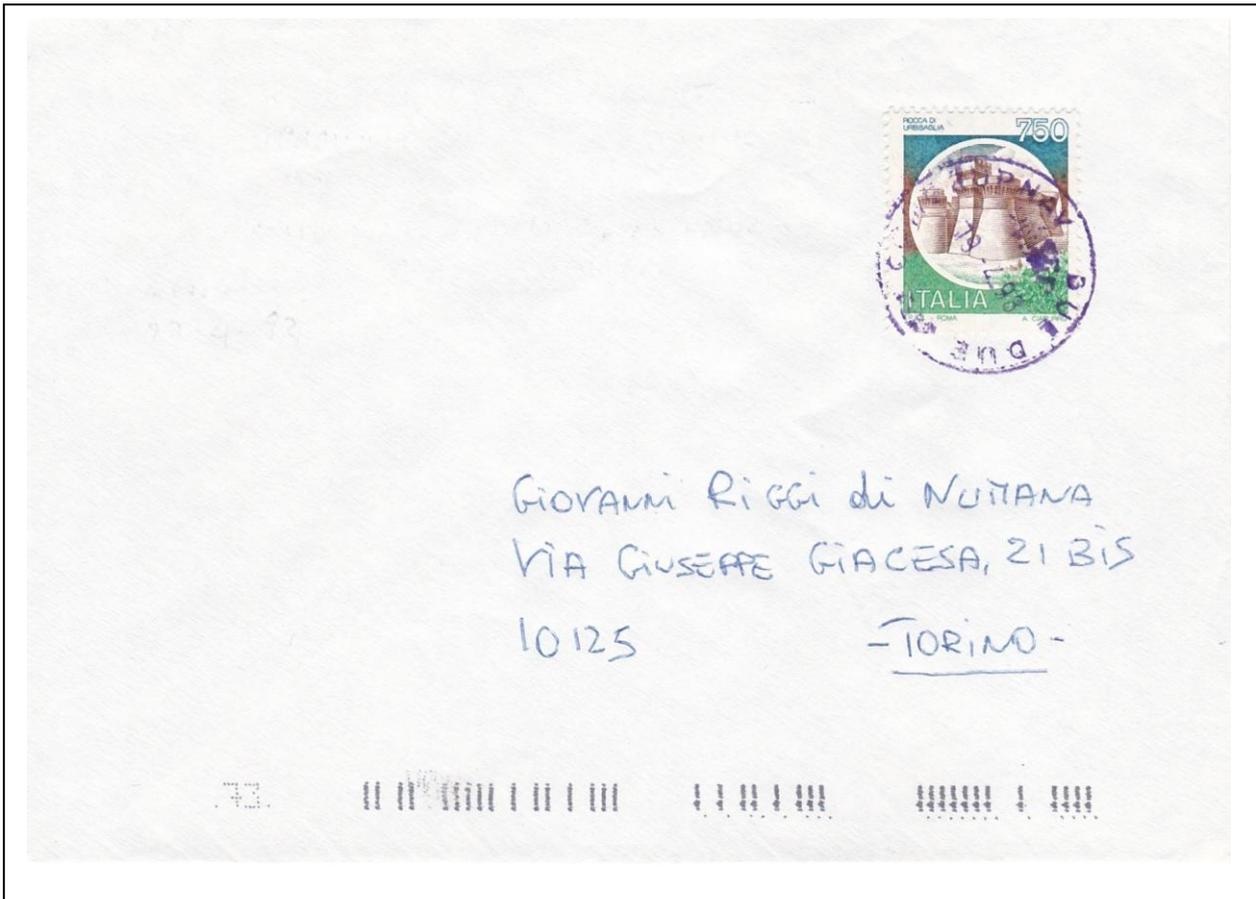
- "ITALFOR PELLICANO - ALBANIA" postmark, used from September 21st, 1991 to November 1993



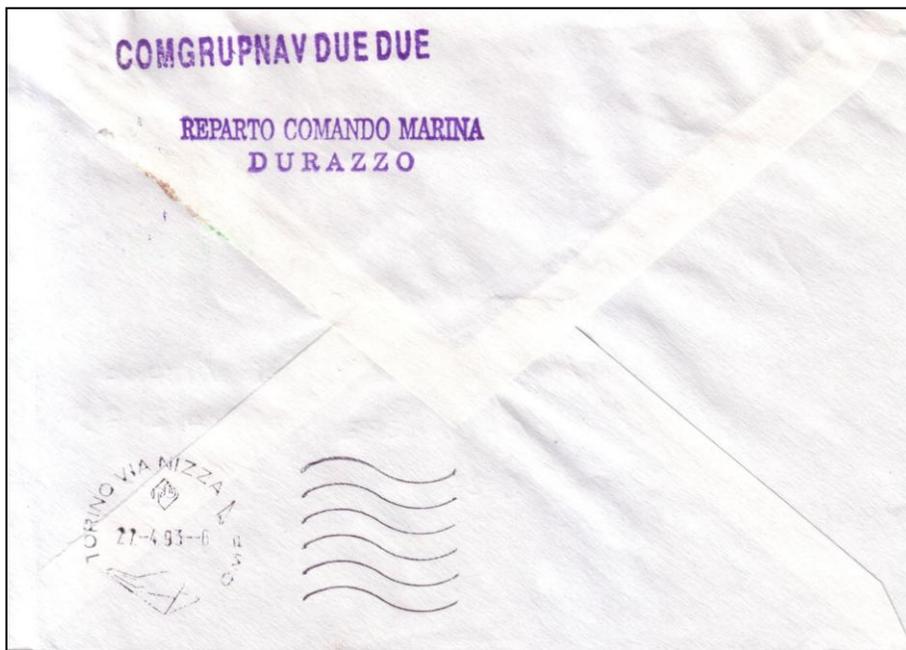
October 3rd, 1991; illustrated Postcard franked for £ 600 destination Caserta. Administrative postmark and Mission Commander, General Antonio QUINTANA signature .

August 12th, 1993; Illustrated postcard sent with Albanian mail from Durazzo to Caserta. Linear administrative postmark and one in the shape of a pelican; symbol of the mission and almost always present on correspondence.





April 19th, 1993; First regularized port letter with the date postmark “COMGRUPNAV DUE DUE” in violet, used by the 22nd, naval group in Durres on few private and official correspondences. On the back, administrative postmarks of arrival in Turin on April 27th, 1993.



Chapter 3.5

HUMANITARIAN MISSION

WHITE CRANE OPERATION / TASK FORCE GENIO (Haiti, from January 19th, to April 14th, 2010)



Contribution to the relief activities undertaken by the international community following the earthquake.

Italy has provided the largest contribution in Europe, sending on the island of Haiti an inter-force contingent on the Cavour aircraft carrier. Created by Fincantieri and commissioned for just 6 months, it has transported 40 land vehicles and 6 Navy transport helicopters. His crew was 550 men with around 200 Army soldiers. One of the first objectives was to guarantee drinking water and electricity. There was also a team of 34 doctors, as the Cavour ship is equipped with state-of-the-art operating theaters, a resuscitation room, Tac equipment, a hyperbaric chamber and a burns care unit. From the postal point of view, unfortunately there are not many witness, as the ship Commander forbidden any collectors correspondence; service mail may exist but certainly sent from Rome.



April 14th, 2010; First port letter, sent by Cavour ship back from the mission, docked at the port of Civitavecchia. "ROMA EUR" postmark and administrative ship's postmark.

Chapter 3.6

HUMANITARIAN MISSION

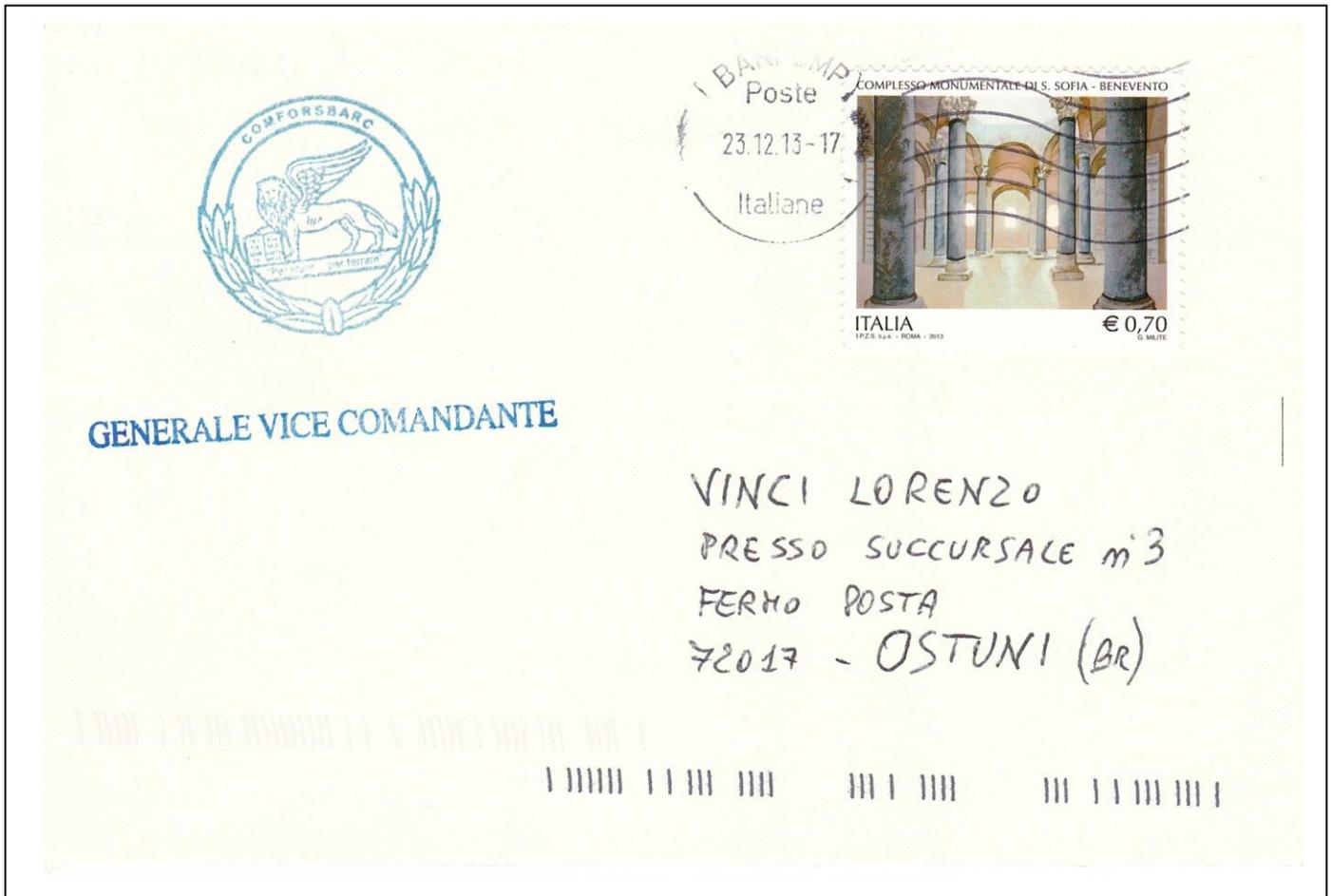


MARE NOSTRUM OPERATION

(Mediterranean Sea, from October 18th, 2013 to October 31st, 2014)

About the migratory flow control of coming people from North Africa and from the Mediterranean countries in general.

The resources were the naval and air of the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, the Military Police, the Guardia di Finanza and the Coast Guard all were employed. For ships in duty, mail is sent from Marinapost to the embassy port of the planned stop of the Unit. If the unit does not have to stop, the mail is delivered by helicopter or other ships.



December 23rd, 2013; Deputy Navy of the Landing Navy, stationed in Brindisi envelope on headed paper, with functions to support ships in operations. Postmark of Bari CMP on € 0.70 stamp, new priority rate in force since January 1st, 2013.



February 28th, 2014; Envelope and ticket signed by the Commander of the San Giusto ship.



August 22nd, 2014; Envelope signed by the Commander of the Libra vessel, T.V. Catia PELLEGRINO.



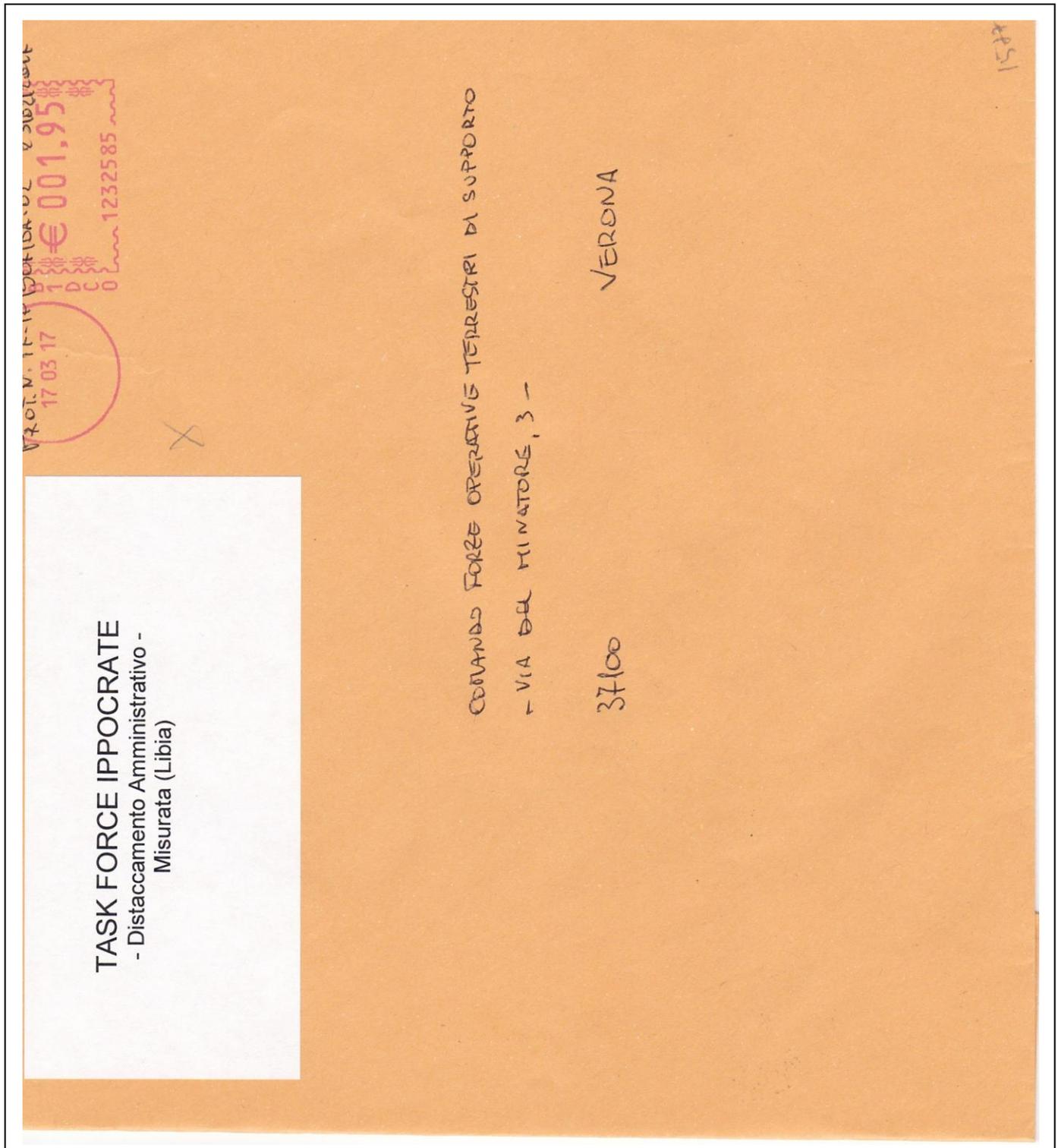
TASK FORCE IPPOCRATE

(Misurata - Libya, from the Mediterranean Sea, from September 14th, 2016 - ongoing)

Provide health assistance to Libyan forces involved in countering Daesh's presence.

The objective of the mission was to deploy an inter-force military camp hospital in support of the Misurata civil hospital. The medical staff was specialized in the treatment of war wounded, particularly in emergency surgery, vascular, maxillofacial, orthopedic and neurosurgery. To these are added the employees in communications and those intended for the protection of the force.

The postal service is mainly carried out for service mail, rarely for private mail.



March 17th, 2017; Service envelope 2nd priority port, "Pro rate" for Italy, € 1.95. Administrative postmark applied with an adhesive label, used for the first time on a mission.



NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), born as a defense organi Western nations in the aftermath of the Second World War, has gone through fifty years without moving a single man outside the borders of the countries that constituted it. Only in the nineties, cause of the Balkan crisis, NATO went in action to pacify the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

IFOR-SFOR BOSNIA ERZEGOVINA/ITALFOR BOSNIA

IFOR / Joint Endeavor Operation December 27th, 1995 - December 20th, 1996

SFOR / Joint Guard Operation December 21st, 1996 - June 19th, 1998

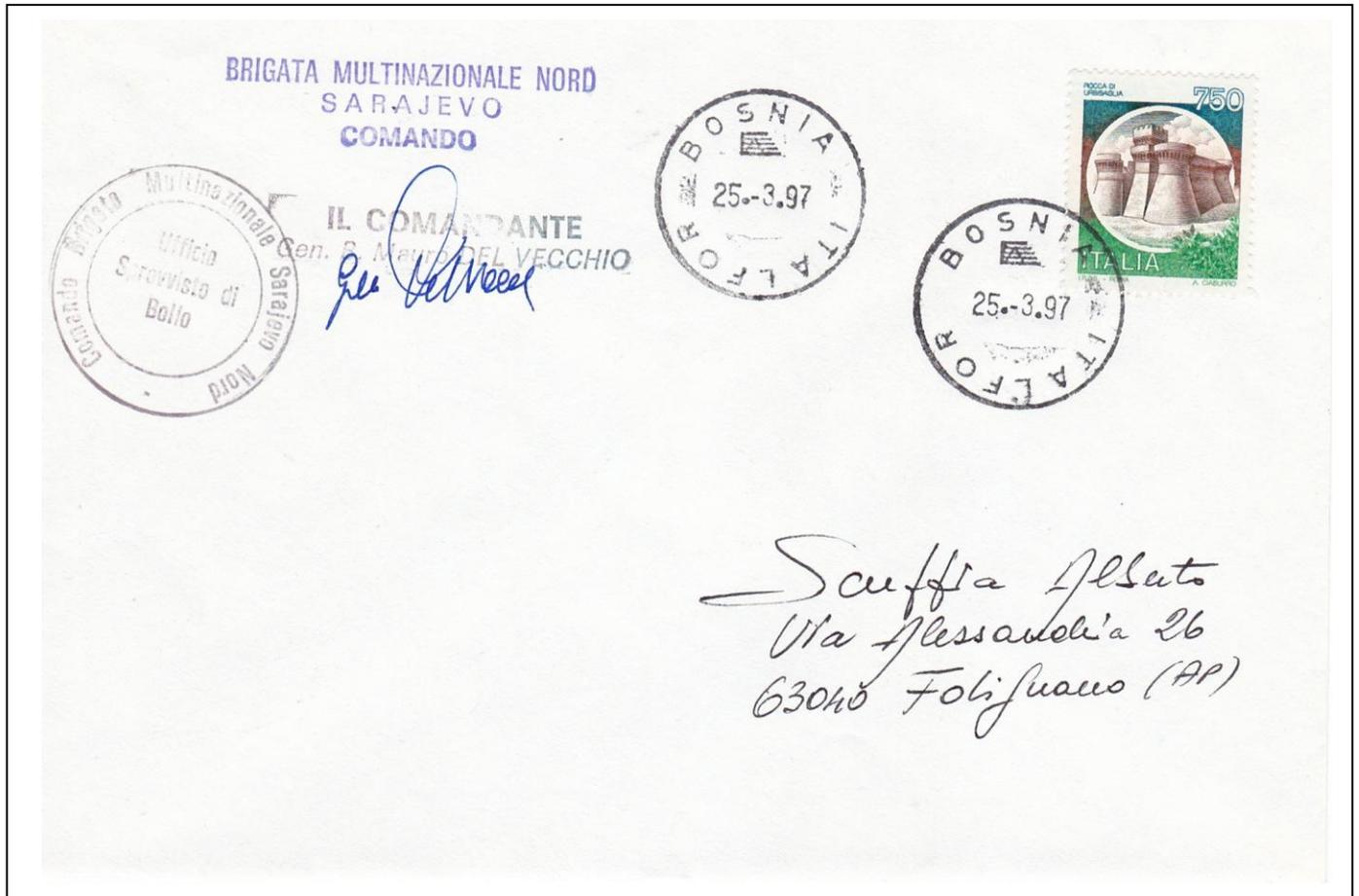
SFOR / Joint Forge operation June 20th, 1998 - December 1st, 2004

(Bosnia Erzegovina, December 27th, 1995- December 1st, 2004)

Observation and security operation in NATO

Initially, the Post Office forwarded the mail service in Italy to Rome 13 office with the oval mark until mid-1997. Subsequently mail was cancelled in Italy with the linear stamp "Tassa pagata art. 2 l. 662/del 28-12-96 Ag. Roma 13/conto credito ordinario", the exemption of postage for the state offices having been repealed since April first, 1997, forcing them to open credit accounts at the post agencies. Since August 11th, 2002 the stamp has been changed and the Italian office that receives it is no longer Roma 13, but Pisa Polo Grandi Utenti.

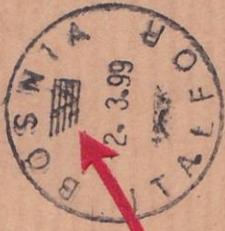
- "ITALFOR BOSNIA" postmark, used from January 15th, 1996 to January 5th, 1998;
- "ITALFOR BOSNIA" postmark modified from January 6th, 1998 to August 10th, 2002;
- "JOINT FORGE BOSNIA" postmark, used from August 11st, 2002 to December 1st, 2004.



March 25th, 1997; First port letter of the Northern Multinational Brigade Command of Sarajevo. Administrative stamps and signature of the Mission Commander, General Mauro DEL VECCHIO.



March 3rd, 1997; Service letter in the right of exemption with oval mark "MINISTERO DELLA DIFESA UFF. POSTA". Guller date and administrative postmark, on the reverse arrival postmark March 13rd, 1997.



March 2nd, 1999; Insured letter of service, regularized in Rome 13 with duty postmark for insured persons and linear postmark " TASSA PAGATA ART 2 L. 662 DAL 28-12-96 AG. ROMA 13 CONTO CREDITO ORDINARIO ", as the the exemption oval postmark was more usable since 1997. Administrative mission postmark of and postal postmark modified in the envelope logo in correct form.

COMANDO DIV. INTERNAZIONALE SUD-EST
Nucleo Supporto Nazionale Italiano
MOSTAR

AG. ROMA 13
A 6514

TASSA PAGATA ART. 2 L. 662
DEL 28-12-96 AG. ROMA 13
CONTO CREDITO ORDINARIO

Taurinense

Bethlehem deposito

Al Leonardo

Ufficio Personale

255

10100 TORINO

386 / ITASFOR/NSE/C.P.
387 /
404 /
405 /

ASPIRANTE



September 25th, 2003; Service in insurance envelope, coming from the Multinational Brigade South Est, National Support Element, based in Mostar. New postmark and mechanical postage of Pisa CPO on October 3rd, 2003.



EXTRACTION FORCE-JOINT GUARANTOR/ ITALCON MACEDONIA

EXTRACTION FORCE/ Joint Guarantor Operation December 9th, 1998 – July 15th, 1999

EXTRACTION FORCE/ Italcon Macedonia Operation May 17th, 1999 - June 11th, 1999

(Macedonia, December 9th, 1998- June 11th, 1999)

OSCE verifiers evacuation (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) from Kosovo.

Initially to write their mail, soldiers used both post offices of other nations and local post offices, but from May 18th, 1999 the Italian post office with the relative guller could be used until it was moved to Kosovo, where it was used until August 10th, 1999 All correspondence on arrival and departure had to be addressed to the Caserta Centro Post Office which was the communication channel between motherland and Macedonia.

- "ITALCON MACEDONIA 1999" postmark, used from May 18th, 1999 to June 11th, 1999;



June 9th, 1999; 1 port letter, sent in the last days of the mission. The reverse administrative postmark "KFOR 18° REGGIMENTO BERSAGLIERI CELLULA S1" and arrival postmark of July 6th, 1999.





AFOR – HALLIED HARBOUR/ ITALFOR ALBANIA

(Albania, April 14th, – August 31st, 1999)

Support Born to UNHCR (United Nations refugee agency) and relief for refugees from Kosovo

The Italian military post office in Albania was opened on June 11st, 1999 because of President of the Republic Carlo Azelio Ciampi visit to Durazzo. All correspondence sent to soldiers who were in Albania had to be addressed to "Casella Postale Bari Centro" with the the words "Italfor Albania". With the entry of the Legislative Decree of July 22nd, 1999 nr.261, published in the Official Gazette nr.182 (August 5th, 1999), dealing with postal items postage , from August 6th, 1999 abolished the possibility for soldiers on a mission to write without postage and use the simple tax charged to the recipient.

- "ITALFOR ALBANIA" postmark, used from June 11th, 1999 to August 29th, 1999.



June 11th, 1999; 1 ° port letter sent on the first day of use of the "Italfor Albania" guller. Transit Bari Centro postmark on June 18th, 1999. The reverse administrative postmark "Italfor Albania Operation Allieed Harbor" and arrival postmark June 21th, 1999.



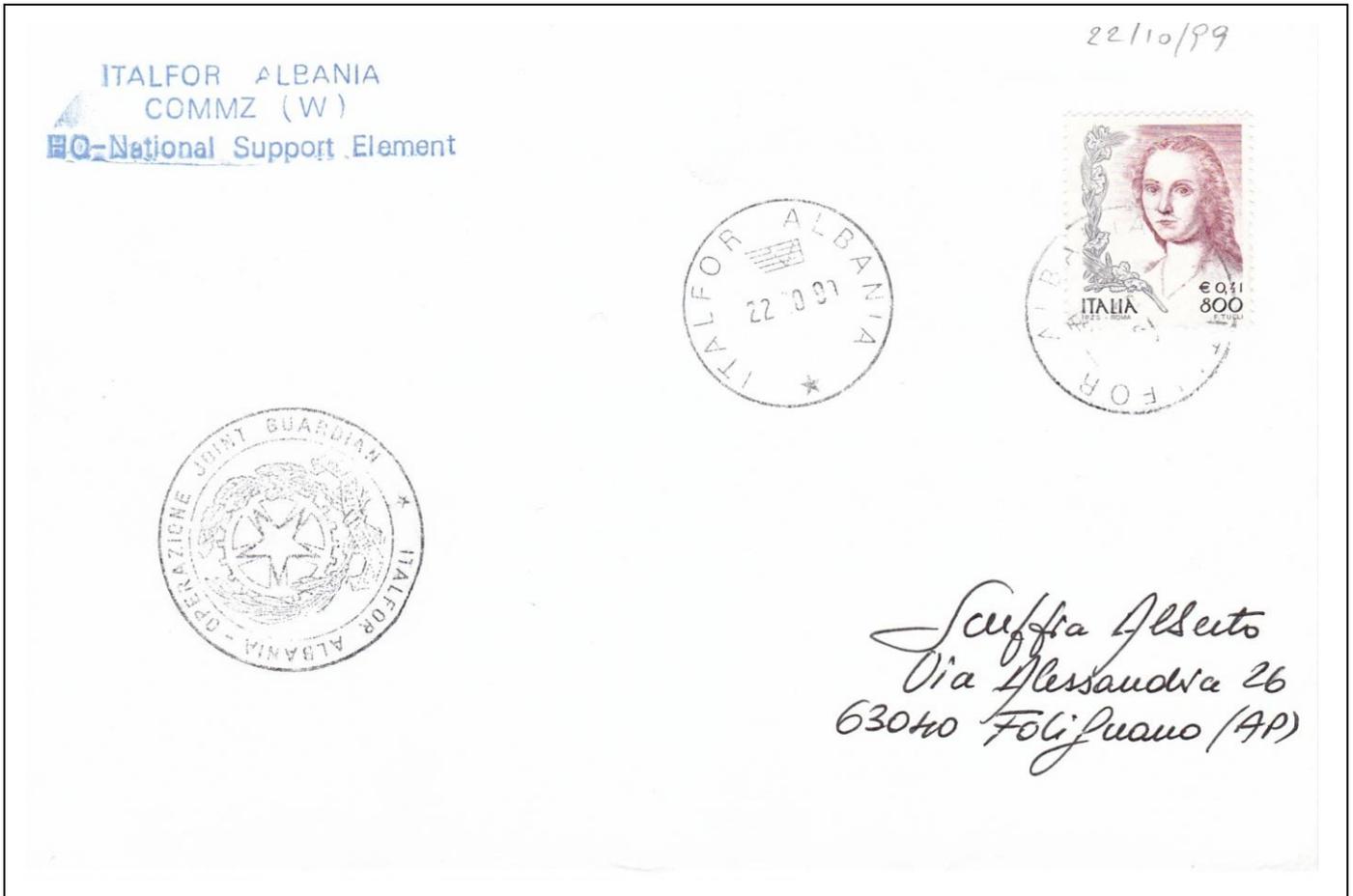


COMMZ-W – JOINT GUARDIAN/ ITALFOR ALBANIA
(Albania, September 1st, 1999 – June 17th, 2002)

International security operation within the Joint Guardian Operation

Mail was mailed to Bari Centro post office, where it was freed; it carried almost always the "Italfor Albania" postmark affixed by the Post Office in Durazzo.

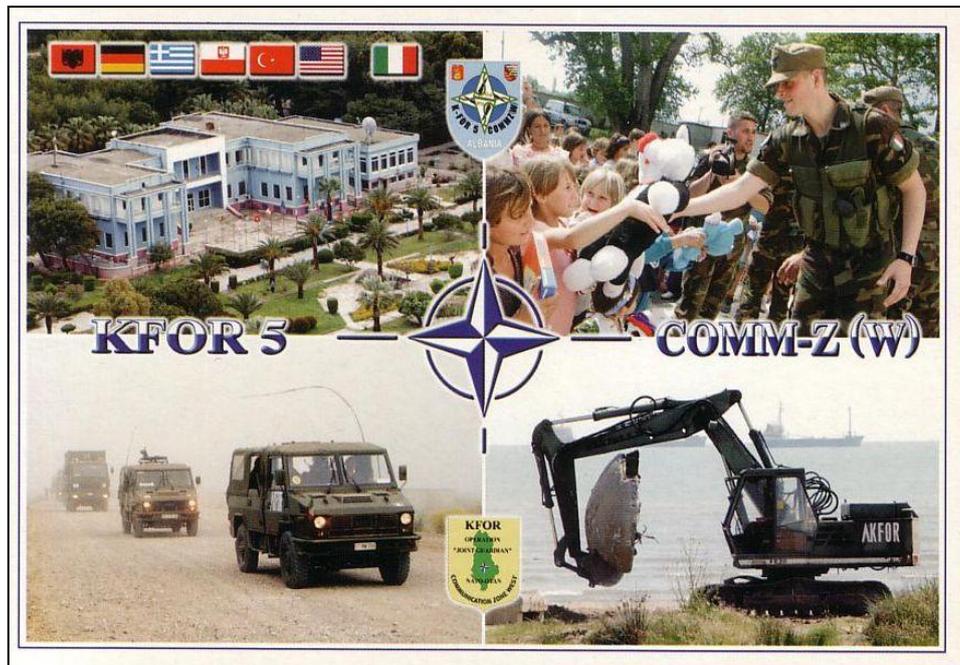
- "ITALFOR ALBANIA" postmark, used from September 1st, 1999 to February 11th 2004.



October 22, 1999; 1 ° port Letter, with "ITALFOR ALBANIA – OPERAZIONE JOINT GUARDIAN" state postmark and administrative e logistic support postmark of Italfor Albania. At the reverse October 27th, 1999 arrival postmark.



August 2nd, 2001; 1 ° port Illustrated postcard edited by the C.do Brigata Alpina "Julia", postmarked "ITALFOR ALBANIA" on the last day of the contingent Kfor 5".



At the top left : the headquarters of COMM-Z (W), the "Plepa-Tropical Compound".



KFOR KOSOVO/ITALFOR KOSOVO

KFOR/ Joint Guardian Operation June 12th, 1999 – December 1st, 2004

KFOR/ Joint Enterprise Operation, from December 2nd, 2004

(Kosovo, June 12th, 1999 - ongoing)

Contributing to carrying out an action of presence and deterrence, contributing at the consolidation of peace.

In the early days the mail was sent where the Brigade was serving at that time, and then mailed to the offices of : Caserta, Turin, Livorno, and Pisa. Then it was all centered at Rome 13, and from 2002 in Pisa. Kosovar civil mail or some foreign contingent is rarely used. Initially the post office was in Pec, then with the “Village Italy” construction was moved to Belo Polje. From November 6th, 2003 to April 28th, 2011, this Operative Theater had a real Post Office in Belo Polje, which was established by a General Staff Agreement with Poste Italiane, able to carry out all the postal operations provided by the Offices. In Italy. This is the only one of the Italian military missions to have had an automatic franking machine TP Label.

Used Postmarks:

- "ITALCON MACEDONIA - 1999", used from June 12th, 1999 to August 19th, 1999;
- "ITALFOR KOSOVO" used from August 20th, 1999 to May 31st, 2003;
- "JOINT GUARDIAN KOSOVO" used from June 1st, 2003 to November 6th, 2003;
- "U.P. Belo Polje - KOSOVO ", used from November 6th, 2003 to April 28th, 2011;
- "OPERAZIONE JOINT ENTERPRICE - KOSOVO" used from June 25th, 2011 to July 22nd, 2011 (wrong);
- "OPERAZIONE JOINT ENTERPRISE - KOSOVO" in use since July 23rd, 2011 .

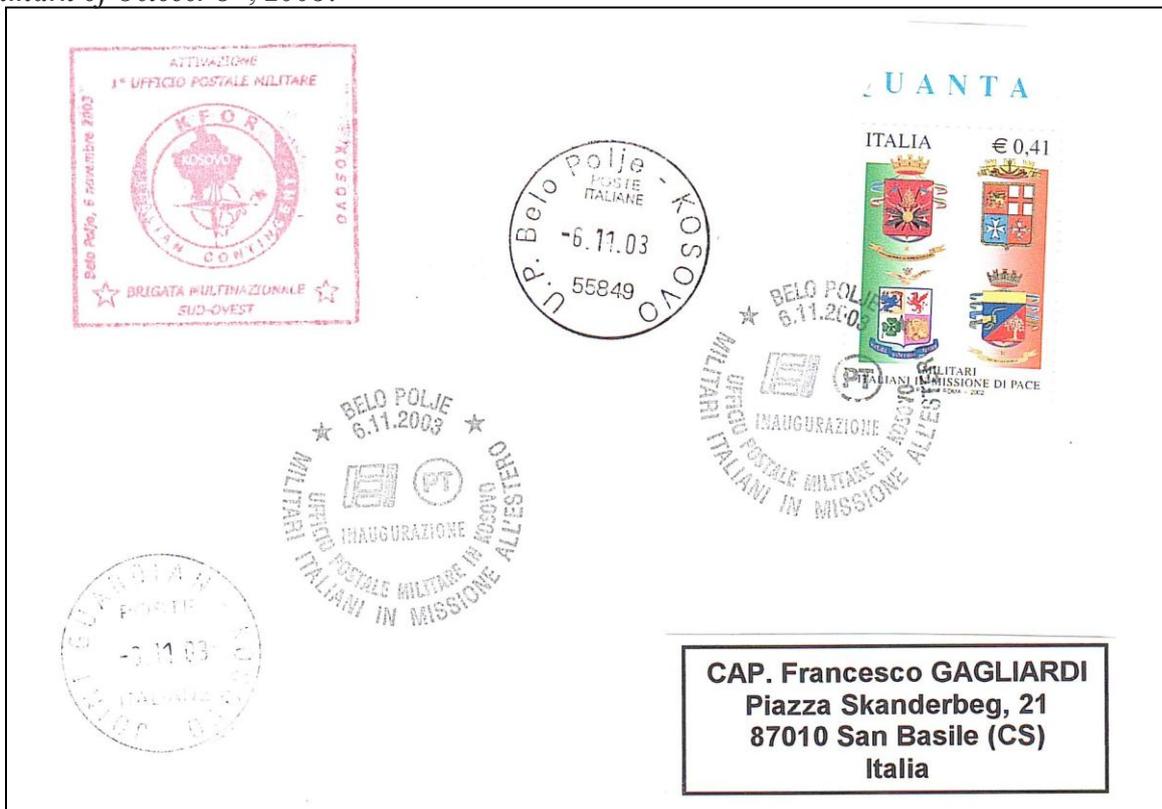


August 23rd, 2000; Stamped letter with the 1st series stamps issued by the NU interim administration of Kosovo Serbian province, 4 Marks worth, canceled with the Italian postmark "Italfor Kosovo", admitted use by Poste Italiane for a short period. Administrative postmark of Pec postal office.



CAP. Francesco GAGLIARDI
Piazza Skanderbeg, 21
87010 San Basile (CS)
Italia

September 12th, 2003; 1 ° port Letter coming from Prizren city, the South-East Brigade Command seat. Italian contingent in Kosovo Administrative postmark . The reverse arrival postmark of October 8th, 2003.

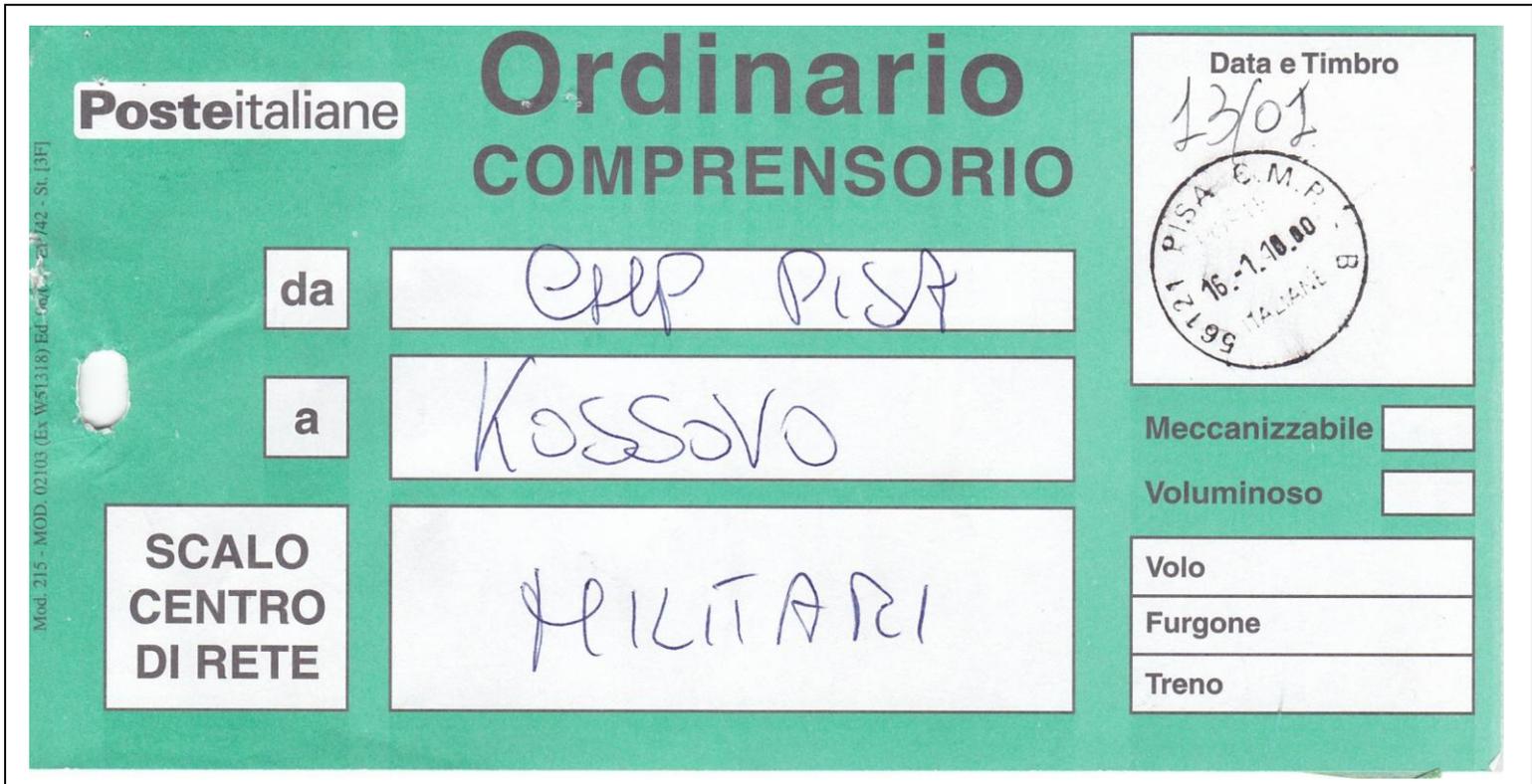


CAP. Francesco GAGLIARDI
Piazza Skanderbeg, 21
87010 San Basile (CS)
Italia

November 6th, 2003; Letter sent to San Basile (CS) on the day of inauguration of the post office. Combination of the three postal stamps and red stamp in the folder, used only a week.



July 3rd, 2004; Priority letter postmarked with II ° type TP Label, in use from April 23rd, 2004 to January 19th, 2006. Aquila Task Force administrative postmark and commander signature.



January 16th, 2010; Mod. 215 used for the closure of postal dispatches ORDINARY on arrival and departure from Operational Theaters, in this case from Pisa CMP to the military airport of Dakovica - Kosovo.



October 21st, 2010; First port letter, paid with € 0.70 through the German military post of Pristina.



October 22nd, 2010; 1^o port register letter, forwarded through the Kosovar independent post, from February 17th, 2008. Commemorative stamps related to the signing of the Kosovo independence.



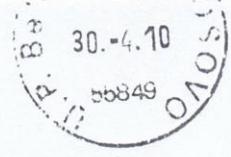
Identification label applied to postal parcels transported by the 46th Air Brigade; in this case from Pisa to the military airport of Dakovica – Kosovo.

Barcode C0000M90000000003234751	Dangerous	Consignee UPMC - BELO POLJE KOSOVO DAKOVICA DAKOVICA	PTY 1
Descrizione CORRISPONDENZA MILITARE		 Cod.: C0000M90000000003234751 Desc.: CORRISPONDENZA MILITARE Final: DAKOVICA (GSA – UPMC BELO POLJE)	
SHIPPER 6 REMA			
Peso Dichiarato 2,5	Lunghezza 0,5	Larghezza 0,3	Altezza 0,5
P.D.C.			



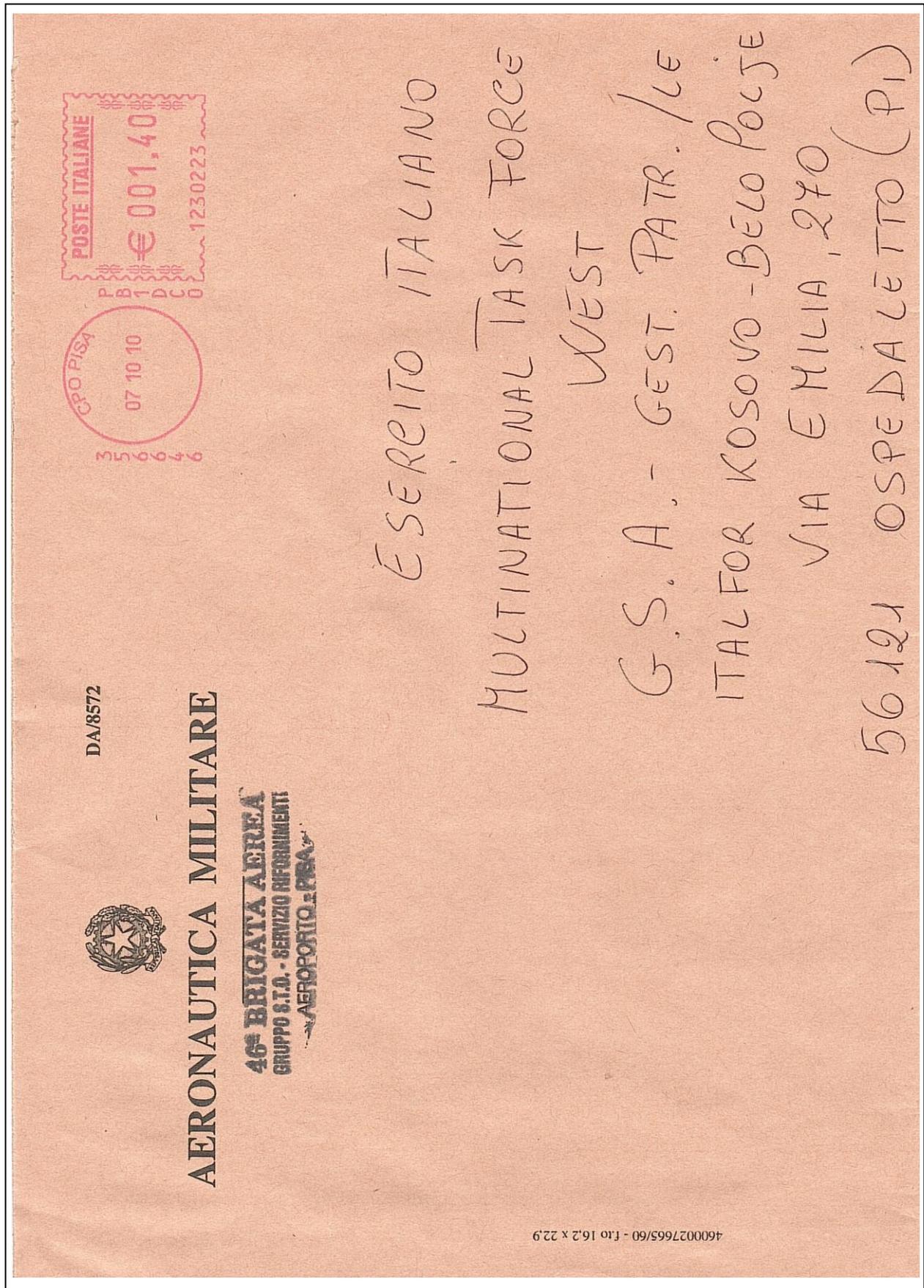
MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE SOUTH-WEST
CELLULA DI SUPPORTO NAZIONALE
RADIO WEST



BERTA Ivan
Piazza B. Caccia 3

April 30th, 2010; First port letter, canceled with the stamp of the Belo Polje civil post office, inside the Italian military base. Logo and administrative stamp of Radio West, the first radio operating after the armed conflict, also widely used by the Kosovar population.



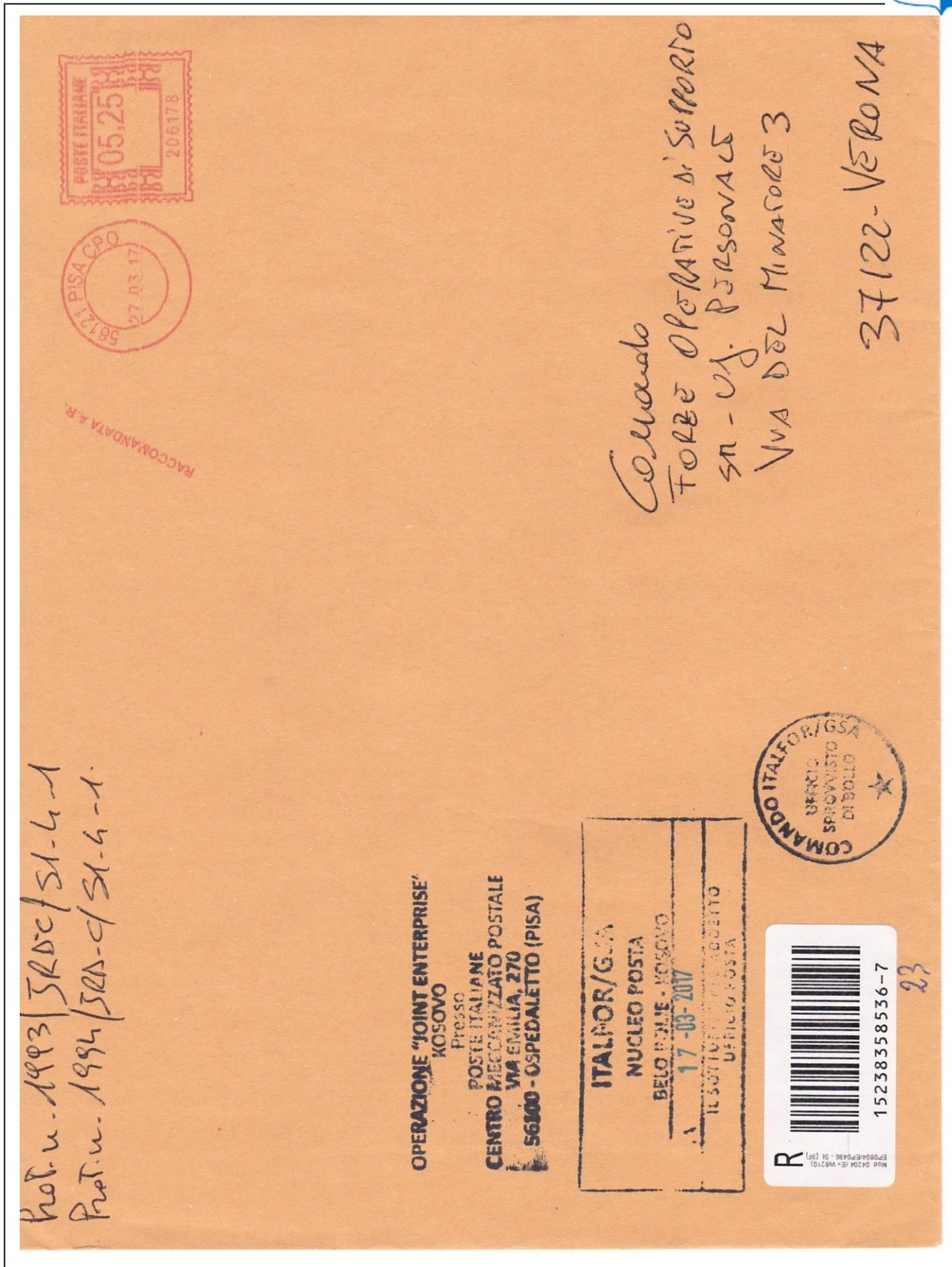
October 7th 2010; 2nd port service letter (rate for government agencies), forwarded from Pisa to Belo Polje - Kosovo. The linear stamp of the 46th Air Brigade on it.



June 25th, 2011; Firs port, Priority letter canceled with the "OPERAZIONE JOINT ENTERPRISE - KOSOVO".



November 17th, 2011; First port registered letter sent from Turin, using the new stamps dedicated to Military Missions. Arrival postmark corrected "OPERAZIONE JOINT ENTERPRISE - KOSOVO".



March 27th, 2017; Service letter in recommendation with return receipt, "Smart" rate up to 100 gr. (4.30 + 0.95 = € 5.25) addressed to Verona. Belo Polje Post Office Administrative postmark.



International Security Assistance Force / ITALFOR KABUL

(Kabul - Afghanistan, from December 22nd, 2001 to December 31st, 2014)

Ensure a safe environment for the Afghan Authority protection that took office in Kabul December 2001

Initially, before the postmark arrival, all the service and private mail was sent from the airport of Kabul to Pisa, seat of the 46th, Airbrigade and subsequently to the post office of Budrio (BO) through the 6th, Transport Regiment . From August 1st, 2002 the collector post office became the CPO of Ospedaletto (PI), for the incoming mail from Afghanistan, while from Italy the mail was addressed to Pisa Polo Grandi Utenti. Given the reconfiguration of the entire Italian contingent from the area of Kabul to Herat, given the small correspondence of our remaining soldiers in Kabul (about 200), it was decided to close the Post Office on November 1st, 2009 and to channel the placed in Herat, in the northwest of Afghanistan.

Used postmark:

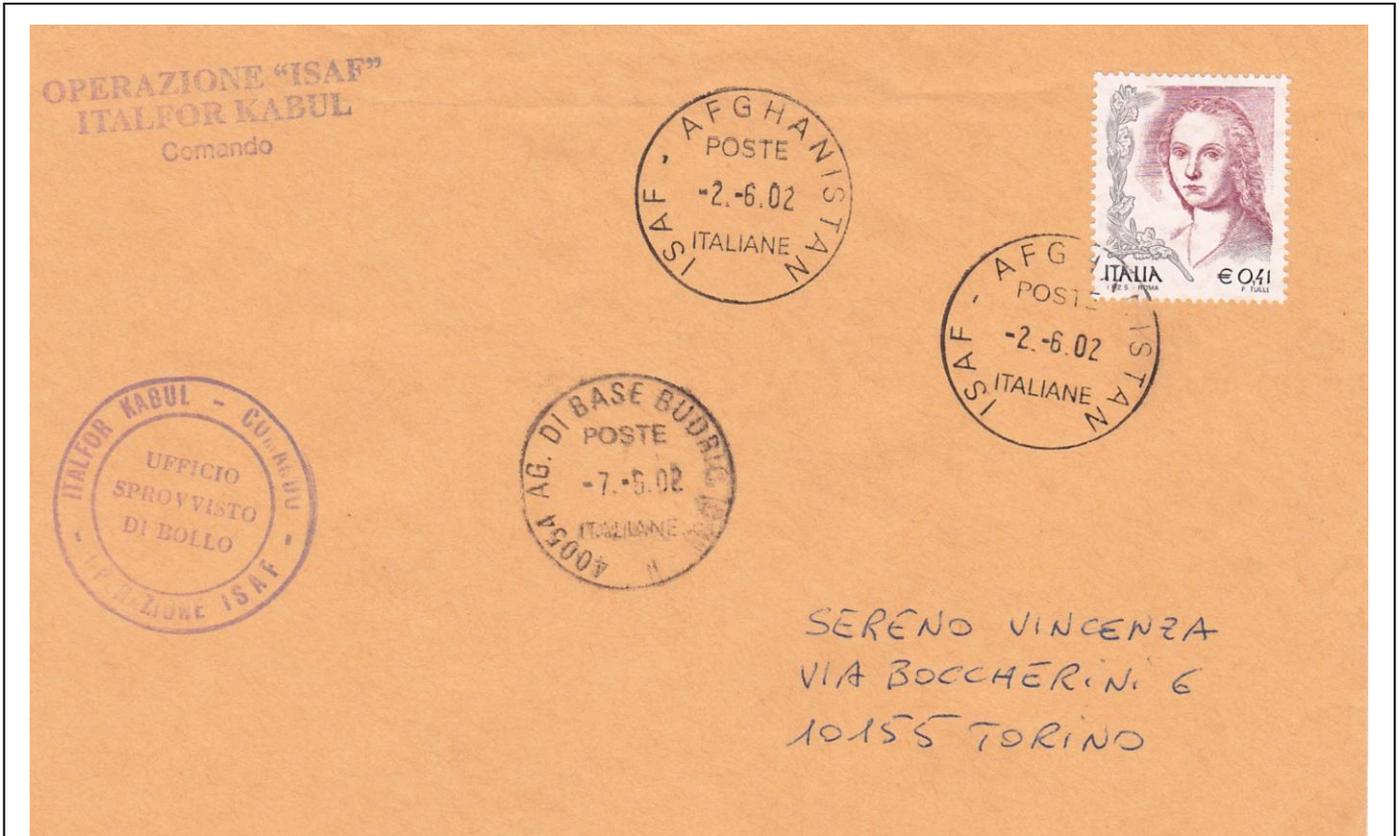
-“ ISAF – AFGHANISTAN”, used from June 3rd, 2002 to November 1st, 2009;

-“ AFGHANISTAN PRAESIDIUM”, used from November 2nd, to November 10th, 2009;

-“ISAF AFGHANISTAN HEART”, in use since November 12th, 2009.



March 18th, 2002; First port letter, regularized at the Budrio post office - Bologna, “ITALFOR KABUL – COMANDO – OPERAZIONE ISAF” administrative postmark.



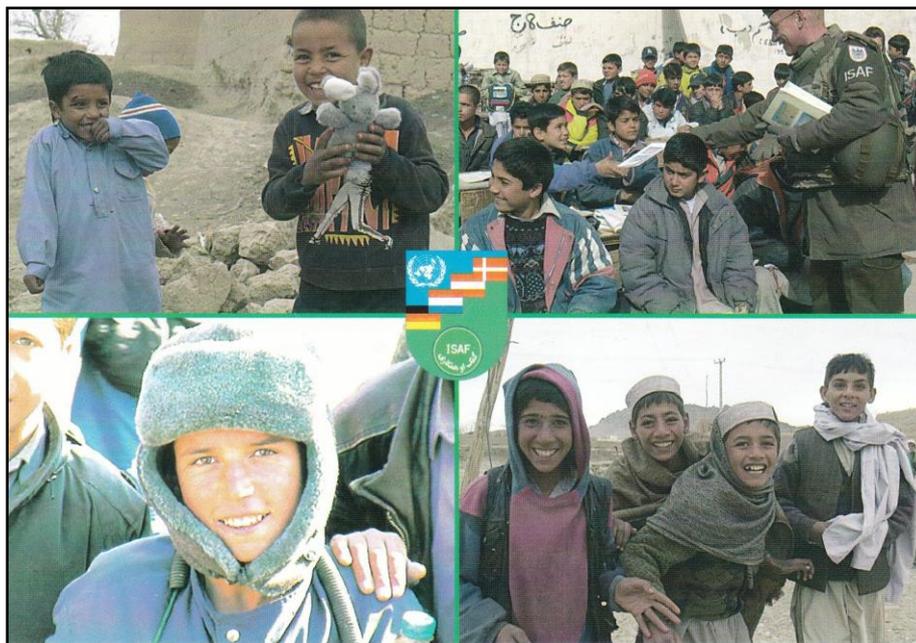
June 2nd, 2002; First port letter, from the military post office in Kabul, postmarked for proof the day before the new guller use . Transit postmark of Budrio (BO) dated June 7th, 2002.

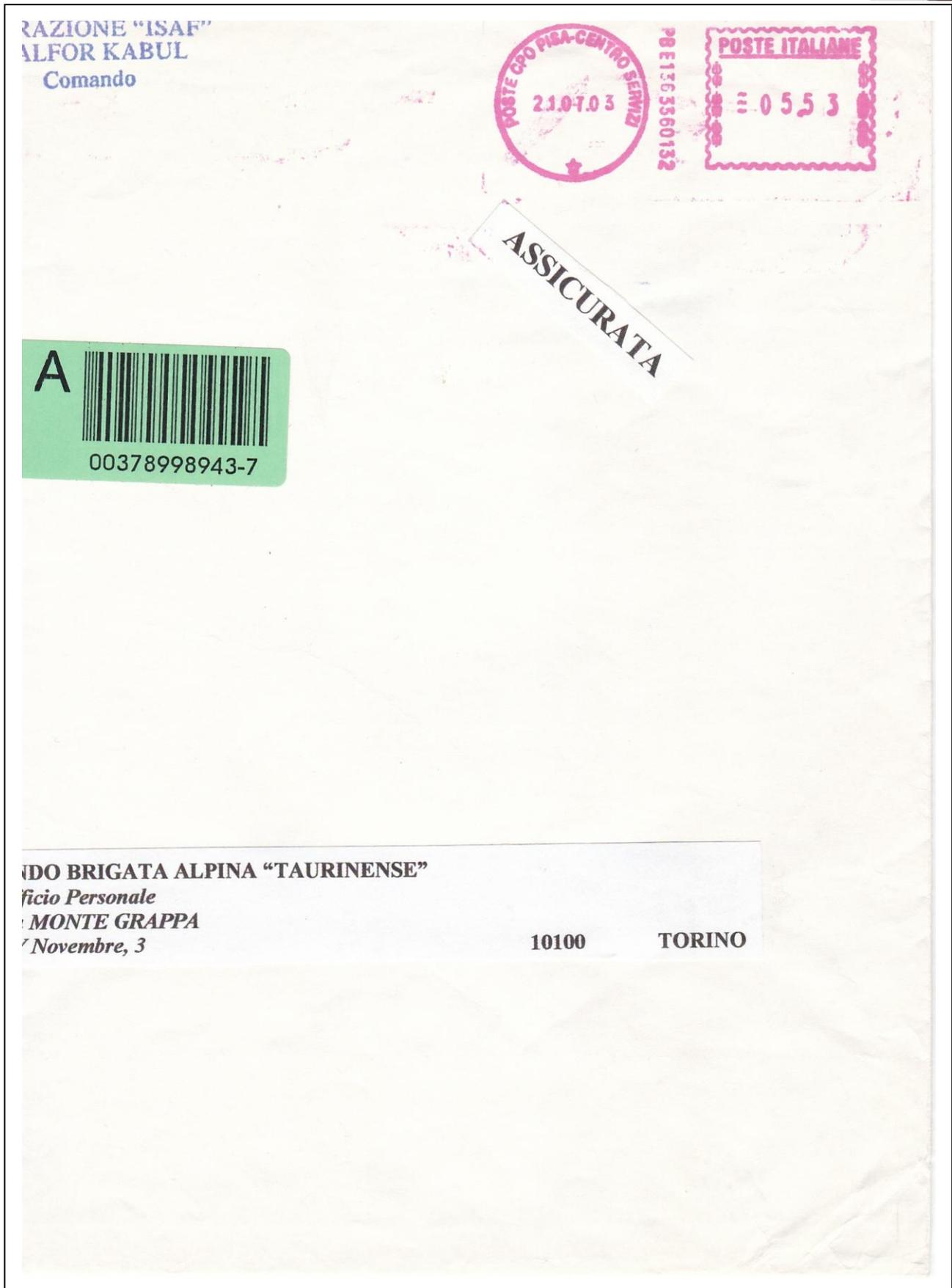


June 3rd, 2002; A/R registered letter 2nd port for an amount of € 2.59, integrated into the Budrio post office with TP Label € 0.76 (2.94 + € 0.41 = € 3.35). Arrival on June 10th, 2002.



June 20th, 2002; Illustrated postcard sent with the German contingent, ISAF postmaks on the ONU logo, mission under his command until July 2003.





July 21st, 2003; Second port (100 gr.) conventional insured service letter, regularized at the CPO of Pisa. Administrative postmark board of the mission. The reverse arrival postmark of July 23rd, 2003.



ISAF/ITALFOR HERAT

(Herat – Afghanistan, from March 2005 to December 31st, 2014)

Ensure a safe environment for the protection of the Afghan Authority that took office in Kabul in December 2001.

Initially the guller had the word "Afghanistan - Praesidium", but with the milestones redeployment in November 2009 from Kabul to Herat, it was necessary to change the guller in "Isaf Afghanistan Herat", reporting as first date on November 12, 2009. they alternated every six months and were part of the Support Group of Italfor, which was responsible, among other things, for the mail service. The post office was operational from Monday to Saturday between 8.00 and 19.30, while on Sundays it observed a reduced shift between 2.30pm and 6.30pm.

Used postmarks:

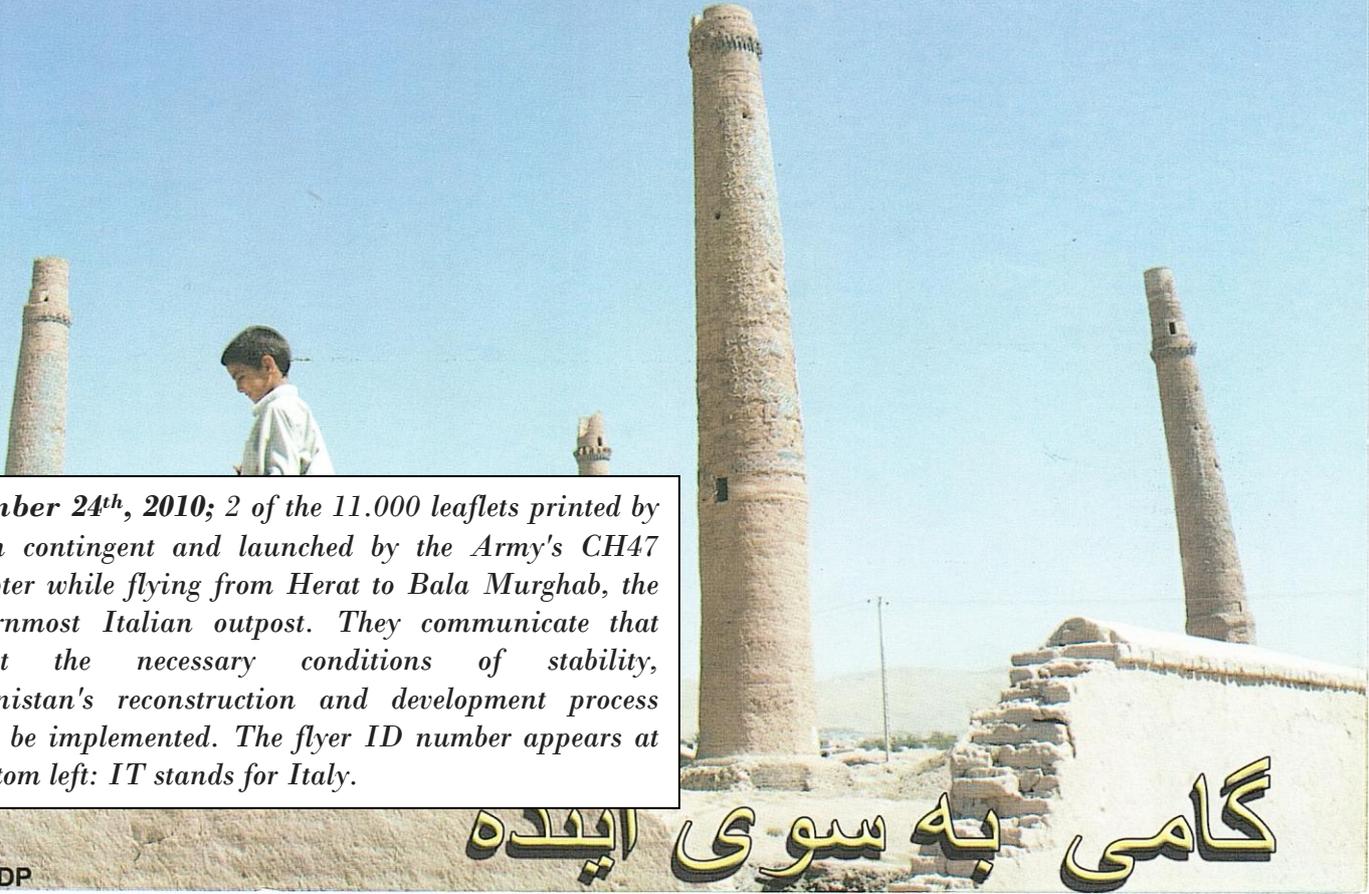
- "AFGHANISTAN- PRAESIDIUM" , used from May 2nd, 2005 to November 10th, 2009;

- "ISAF AFGHANISTAN - HERAT" , in use since November 12th, 2009.



December 25th, 2005; 1 port letter sent on Christmas Day, proving that even on holidays the post office is in operation. Mission and post office linear and round administrative postmarks.

مفتخر به گذشته خود



november 24th, 2010; 2 of the 11.000 leaflets printed by Italian contingent and launched by the Army's CH47 helicopter while flying from Herat to Bala Murghab, the northernmost Italian outpost. They communicate that without the necessary conditions of stability, Afghanistan's reconstruction and development process cannot be implemented. The flyer ID number appears at the bottom left: IT stands for Italy.

گامی به سوی آینده

ITL4TA1HB007DP

آینده تان را توأم با یک



قانونیت و موفقیت

آینده

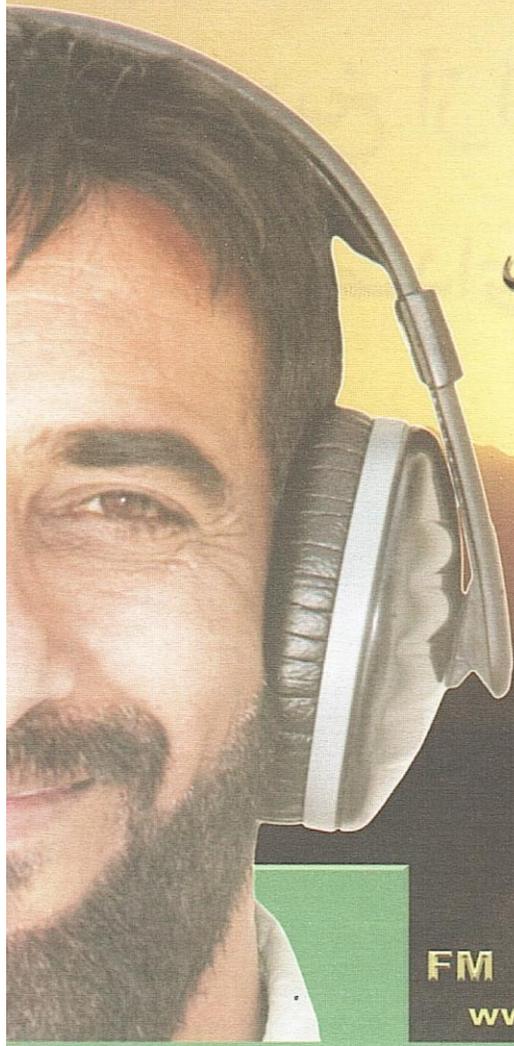


حالا

انتخاب آزاد تعیین نمایند

ITL5TA1HB009DP

د لويديځ آزادي غږ راډيو راډيو صدای آزادي غږ



April 22th, 2010; Advertising flyer launched by the CH47 helicopter on Herat area the inauguration day of radio Sada, now Bayan (narrating, communicating), created by Italian nation for the western area of Afghanistan.

FM **88.5** MHz
www.sada-e-azadi.net

ستاسو هېواد - ستاسو غږ
کشور شما - صدای شما

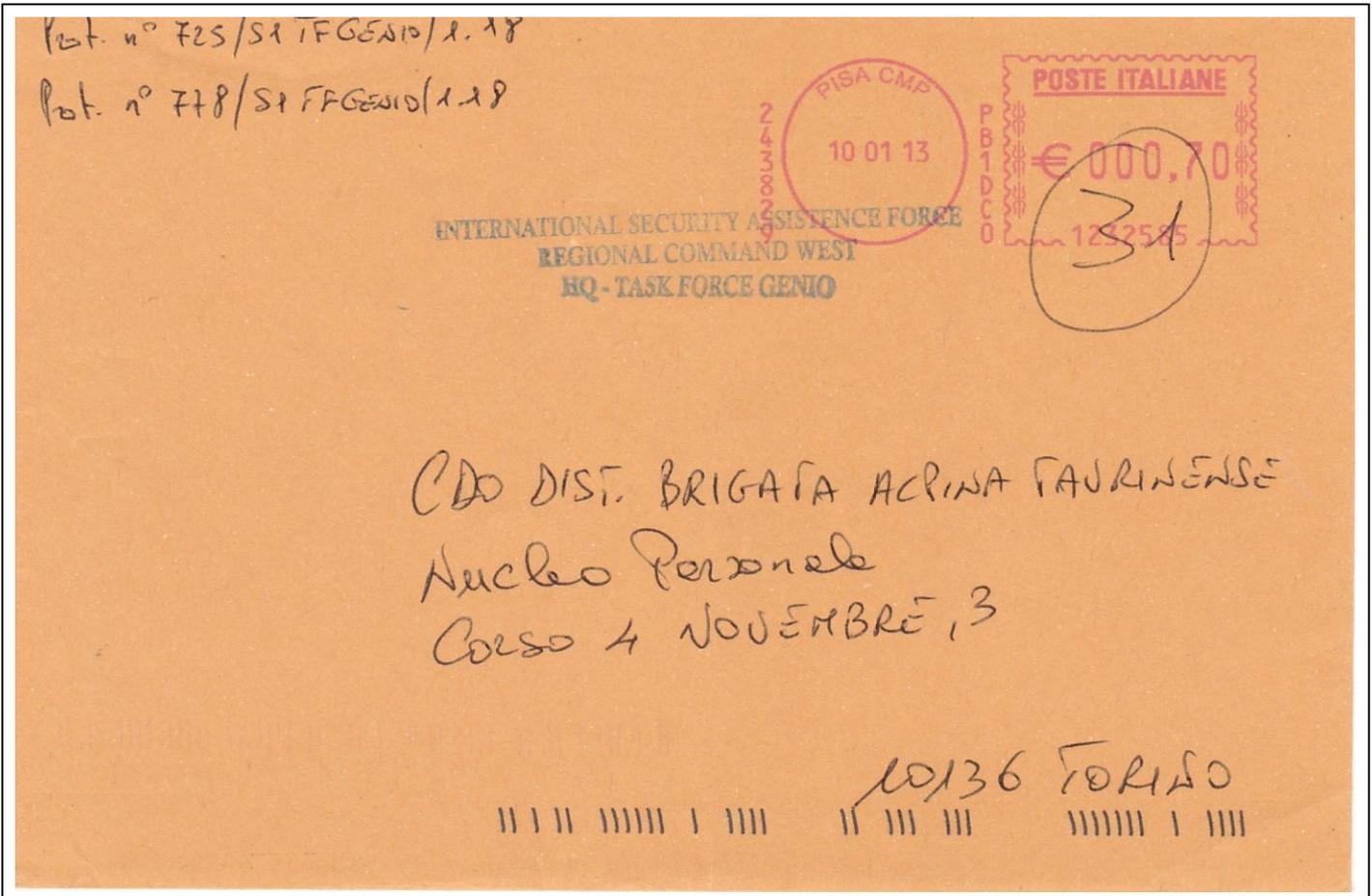


RADIO TEAM CHIEF

1° Mar. Lgt. Antonello NAPOLEONE

BOTTAZZI Ester
Corso Salvemini 12
10122 Torino

July 6th, 2013; Private letter forwarded by Herat to Turin. The logo and signature of the Radio Bayan Radio Team Chief, the ISAF network on it.



January 10th, 2013; Service letter 1st bundle of weight with the new rate from € 0.70 in force from January 1st, 2013. Administrative postmark "ISAF Regional Command West HQ Task Force GENIO".



March 9th, 2013; Registered letter 5th port, stage of weight, in excess of 5 cents. sent by the Vatican in the very short period of Vacant Seat (1-13 March 2013). Administrative postmark in double circle with the scorpion, NATO logo and arrival date postmark of April 1st, 2013.

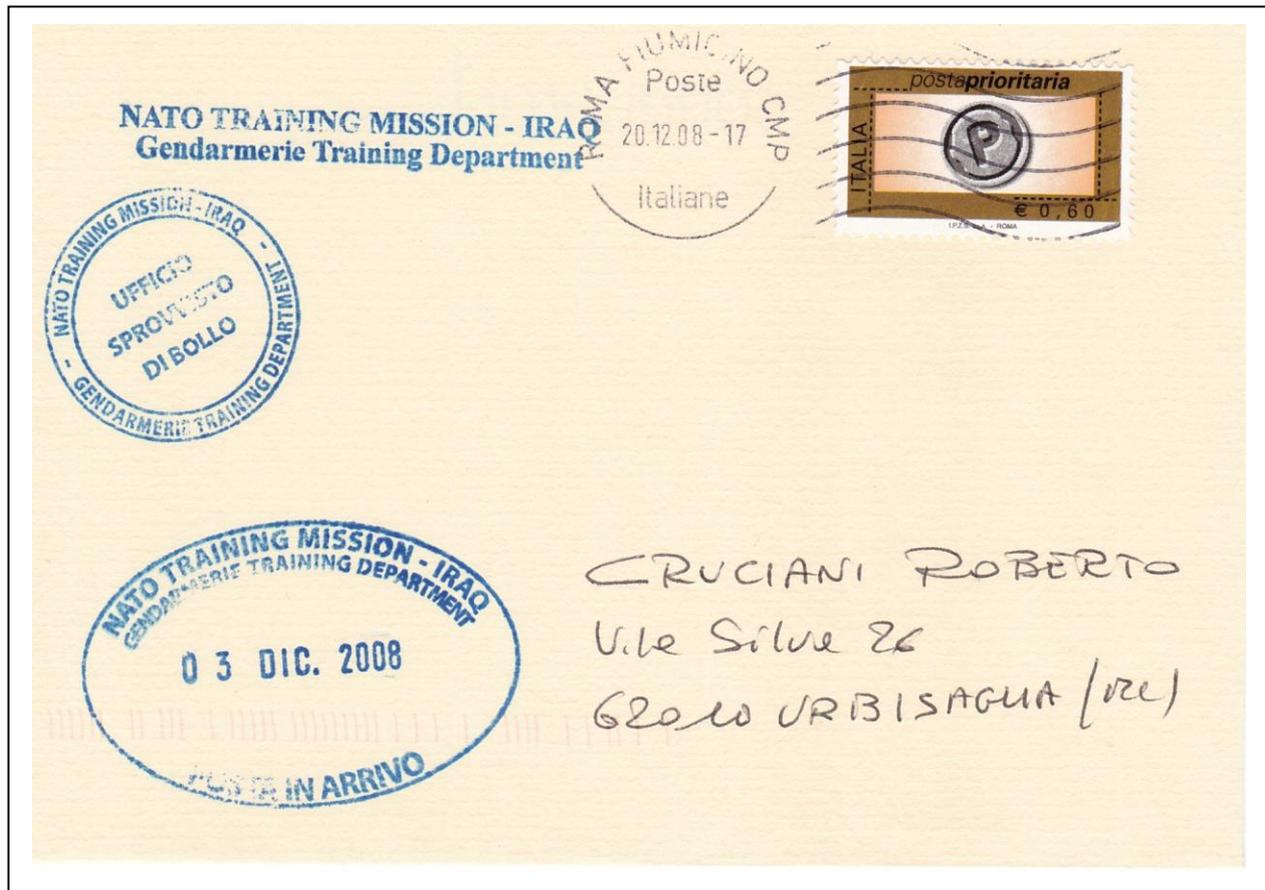


NATO TRAINING MISSION IRAQ

(Iraq, August 14th, 2004- December 19th, 2011)

Assistance of the Alliance to the Iraqi Interim Government for the training of the Security Forces.

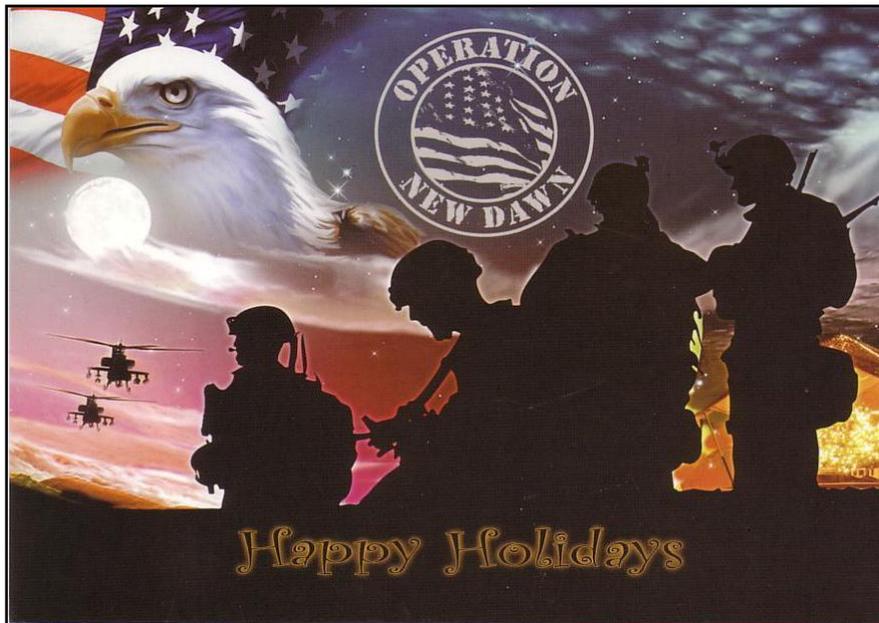
The United Nations Security Council, with resolution 1546, has returned, since the end of June 2004, national sovereignty to the Iraqi people and, at the request of the interim government, renewed the authorization to the presence of a Multinational Force. On August 14th, 2004 the NATO Training Mission Iraq (NTM-I) was launched, with the participation of 16 Allied countries and Ukraine. Italy participated in the mission with about 70 soldiers of the various Armed Forces: the NTM-I was certainly a full success mission, also confirmed by the Iraqi authorities. For more than seven years, at the request of the Iraqi government, NATO was assisting the local security forces by providing training, advice and mentoring. The obtained results are extraordinary and the figures help to confirm it: about 11,000 policemen trained by our Military Police; approximately 4,000 qualified officers at various military training institutions; 360 non-commissioned officers who have passed the category course. From a postal point of view, the mission did not have its own post office, but used our embassy in Baghdad that attached it to the diplomatic bulletin addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, or entrusted it to the returning staff who imposed it on the first stop in Italy. Another possibility was the use of the American postal service, very well organized also for the parcel service.



December 20th, 2008; First port letter regularized in Italy to the Roma Fiumicino CMP. Round and linear administrative postmark .



April 19th, 2011; Illustrated postcard in the 1st port fare for Europe sent by American mail with digital franking machine. Linear and round administrative mission postmark, curious double English / Arabic writing.





“INDUS” OPERATION – ELEFANTE TASK FORCE
(Bagh- Pakistan, November 14th, 2005 - February 3rd, 2006)

Rescue and support mission for the reconstruction in favor of Pakistan populations hit by a violent earthquake. Given the brevity of the mission and the lack of regular air connections with Italy, it was decided not to provide the Italian contingent of its own post office. Therefore, the few correspondences were forwarded through Pakistani mail and the last ones with Poste Italiane upon returning from the mission, as evidenced by the underlying letter.



February 15th, 2006; Letter sent from Roma Fiumicino, probably from a military man returning from the mission to Pakistan, with administrative postmark and signature of the Mission Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Giulio BIOT.



UNIFIED PROTECTOR OPERATION
(Libyan Sea, March 31st – October 31st, 2011)

Operation born of the United Nations Resolution 1973 authorizing a no-fly zone over Libya and the use of all the means necessary to protect civilians against government forces, to the exclusion of any action involving the presence of an occupying force.

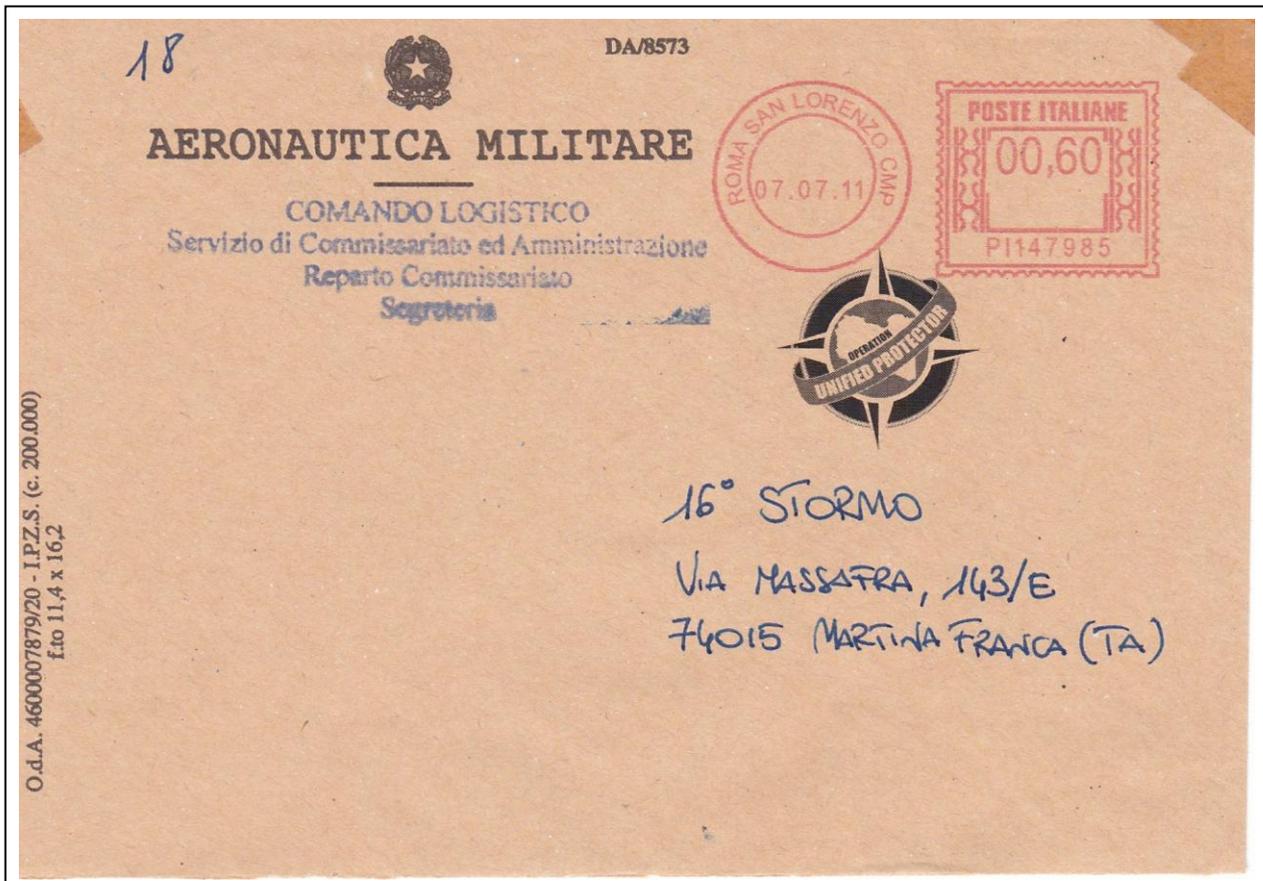
Started formally March 31st, 2011, even if already from the 19th of the same month, with the name of Odyssey Dawn had begun the first American, French and British air strikes conducted nationally. Italy had a considerable logistic role, in fact it involved several air bases, including the Trapani airport where F-16, Eurofighter, Tornado and AMX fighters were used as part of the Air Birgi Task Group. As for naval support, several ships have patrolled the Libyan sea since February including the San Giorgio, San Marco and Andrea Doria for the repatriation of the Italians and the rescue of refugees. The only aircraft carrier was the Garibaldi, which hosted the AV-8B Plus, a vertical take-off in use at the Navy mainly as an interceptor for air defense. From the postal point of view, there is testimony from the air bases interested in the military operation that have collaborated with us collectors and some Commanders of the ships that have worked to answer us, even if most of the stamps have posthumous periods to the navigation period .



March 23rd, 2011; First port satirical envelope, sent from Messina by the 16th Air Riflemen , Wing of the Air Force, aboard the "Giuseppe Garibaldi" ship engaged in defense and air space control for "Odyssey Dawn" Operation. Administrative postmark of the belonging Command.



April 30th, 2011; First port letter, administrative postmark signed by the Commander, Captain of the vessel Marco Tomassetti. Used for arms embargo from March 26th, to July 19th, 2011.



July 7th, 2011; First port service letter, sent by the Logistic Command of Rome Air Force, rendered free by the mechanical franking machine. The official logo of the mission is interesting.



RESOLUTE SUPPORT
(Herat – Afghanistan January 1st , 2015 – Ongoing)

Training, advice and assistance in favor of the Armed Forces and Afghan institutions.

It is the natural evolution of the ISAF mission, from which it differs in the first place for being of the "no combat" type, and significantly more contained in numbers, decided by the Chicago summit in 2012, which sanctioned 2014 as the year of completion of the phase transition, or the full transfer of security responsibility from ISAF forces to ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces).

Used postmarks:

- "ISAF AFGHANISTAN - HERAT" , *in use since November 12th, 2009.*



April 21st, 2020; Registered service letter Pro, 2nd port for Alessandria. Submitted within the lockdown period and placed in the recipient's unsigned letterbox. The postman indicated on the envelope that this procedure takes place on the basis of the derogation of the "DL18 / 2020 art. 108".



BALTIC GUARDIAN OPERATION
(Adazi – Lettonia, june 19th, 2017 – Ongoing)

Strengthen the presence on the east flank of NATO Alliance in order to fulfill the primary collective security mission of Euro-Atlantic territorial integrity.

Based on the decision taken by Alliance Heads of State and Government during the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, Italy with the "Baltic" Task Group takes part in the NATO device of 4 multinational Battle Groups; each led by a member state (Canada in Latvia, Germany in Lithuania, the United Kingdom in Estonia and the USA in Poland). Mail is forwarded through Latvian post offices with a postal deposit account.



February 14th, 2020; Registered service letter sent from Riga-Latvia, via Latvian postal deposit account, for Pinerolo (TO). The registered label and the "Task Group Baltic Comando" linear stamp on it.



The geostrategic scenario that took place after September 11st, 2001 saw for the European Union the need to revise the original objective to counteract better the asymmetric and unconventional threats to the stability of the Continent. European foreign policy must presuppose the availability of military forces capable of conducting humanitarian missions aimed at restoring peace through the use of force.

“ALTHEA” EUFOR OPERATION

(Bosnia Herzegovina, from December 2nd, 2004 to November 2nd, 2010)

Assisting the Bosnian Authorities in carrying out activities related to the fight against terrorism and support in favor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The Military Post Office located at "Camp Butmir" in Sarajevo dealt with ordinary and private mail, while the registered and insured ones were only for service.

Used postmarks:

- "BOSNIA JOINT FORGE", used from December 2nd, 2004 to November 6th, 2006;
- "BOSNIA OPERAZIONE ALTHEA", used from November 7th, 2006 to November 2nd, 2010.



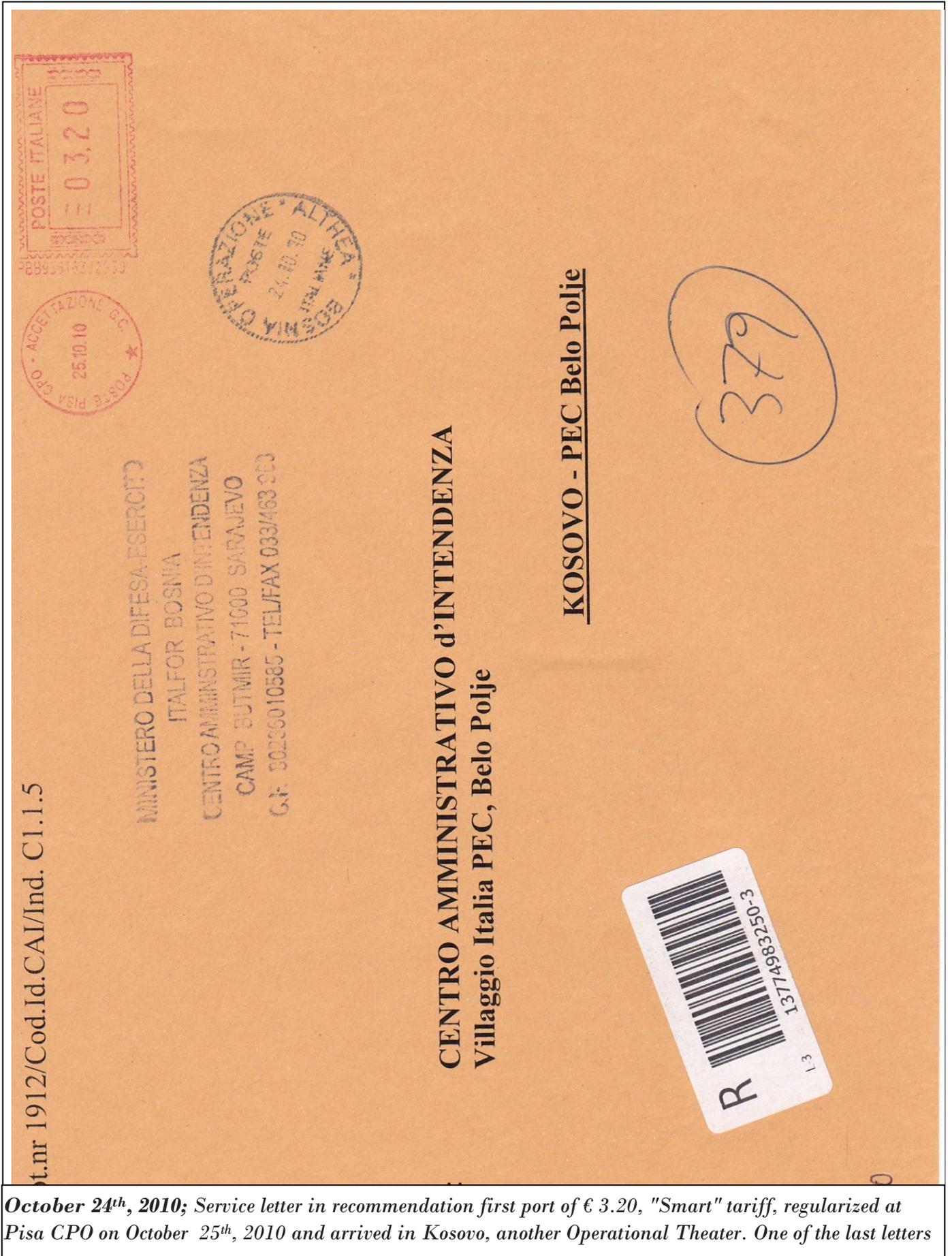
March 23rd, 2005; First port letter with "JOINT FORGE - BOSNIA" postmark and administrative postmark of the Military Police stationed in Sarajevo. The reverse arrival postmark of April 1st, 2005.



February 23rd, 2009; Registered letter with destination USA, sent from the NATO Sarajevo Headquarters and forwarded through the local post offices of Ilidza-Sarajevo, without postage in "port paye" service.



February 25th, 2010; Service letter insured for 50 euros (rate for public entities) accepted at the CPO of Ospedaletto (PI) on 26.02.2010 and arrived in Rivoli (TO) the following day. Administrative stamp of Bosnia and Herzegovina Contingent Command.





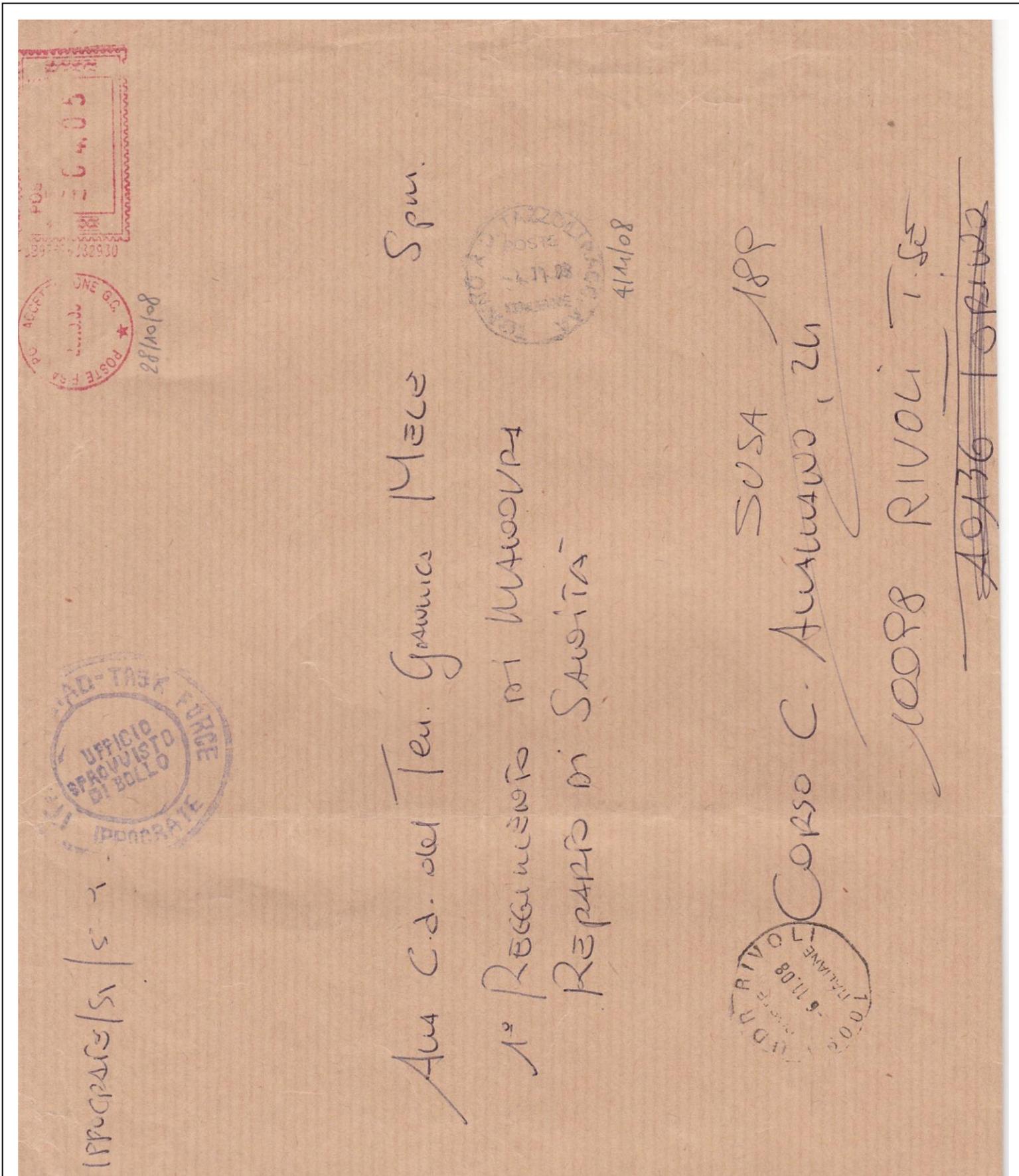
**NICOLE OPERATION/ "IPPOCRATE" Task Force
(Abèchè - Chad, from September 25th, 2007 to June 19th, 2009)**

The United Nations Security Council has given the European Union (EU) the conduct of a military operation, with the aim of contributing to the stabilization process of the area, through the deployment of military forces. There are 105 people that Italy has authorized to participate in the mission. The Task Force called "Hippocrates" consists of an inter-force health device with relative supports. This is a hospital complex camp, deployed at Camp Croci, in Abèche, 150 kilometers from the border with Sudan. From a postal point of view, the provided services were ordinary mail, while recommended and insured mail only by post service.

- "OPERAZIONE NICOLE - CHAD" postmark, used from November 12th, 2008 to June 20th, 2009



October 18th, 2008; First group of weight registered letter, regularized at the Operative Postal Center of Pisa, arrival postmark on October 22nd, 2008. Circular administrative postmark "ITALFOR CHAD – TASK FORCE IPPOCRATE" always badly imprinted.



October 28th, 2008; Recommended service 5th, port letter (up to 250gr.)franked 4.05 €, mailed to the CPO of Pisa, misdirected with arrival postmark November 4th, 2008 and Rivoli (TO) of November, 6th, 2008. Circular administrative mission postmark.



November 12th, 2008; First port letter with the first day of use mission postmark . Round and linear administrative postmark; the latter used at the Italian field hospital.



June 20th, 2009; First port letter in service recommendation, sent the last day of the guller use. Administrative double circle mission postmark.

EULEX KOSOVO OPERATION**(Pristina – Kosovo, from December 9th, 2008 – ongoing)**

Assistance to Kosovo institutions and judicial authorities in development of an efficient, independent judicial system meeting international standards.

A mission initially constituted by 61 men of the Carabinieri, there were also personnel of the *Guardia di Finanza* and the State Police which gradually reduced to a representative unit. The main postal service was the Italian Joint Enterprise in Pec one, but also the Kosovo postal service, which has now become efficient.

Used postmark:

- "U.P. Belo Polje - KOSOVO", used from December 9th, 2008 to April 28th, 2011;

- "OPERAZIONE JOINT ENTERPRICE - KOSOVO" used from June 25th, 2011 to July 22th, 2011 (wrong);

- "OPERAZIONE JOINT ENTERPRISE - KOSOVO" in use since July 23rd, 2011 .



February 19th, 2011; First port letter franked with 70 cents Kosovo stamp. (letter rate) mailed to Peje - Pec. Continent and Carabinieri Linear administrative postmark. Blue mandatory adhesive label for shipping by air.



ATALANTA OPERATION

(Gulf of Aden – Indian Ocean, from December 8th, 2008 – ongoing)

European Union naval operation to prevent and suppress maritime piracy acts along the coasts of Somalia. The military force linked to the Atalanta mission today sees the permanent participation of nine members (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy from March 7th, 2009) which, according to the periods, counts no more than twenty ships. The mail is sent from the ships to the Italian base of Djibouti and from it with the aircraft of the 46th, Airbrigade it is sent with a bullet to Marinapost to be forwarded to the national postal circuit.



March 12th, 2014; 1st class letter sent from the European mission headquarters to Northwood - United Kingdom, bound for Alexandria. Logo of Operation Atalanta.



February 25th, 2015; Letter forwarded through the Djibouti civil mail. Administrative stamp of the logistics component Aerial of the Italian land base.



March 1st, 2016; First port letter sent by CARABINIERE ship from the Gulf of Aden and mailed to ROMA PRATI, on the credit account of Marinapost. Unused but canceled stamp with circular ship postmark. Mission administrative postmark in the folder.